

REGULAR MEETING
Litchfield City Council - City Council Room
November 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, Jessica Bills, Rick Siebert, Brenda Thomas, Don Bannick and OR Smith.

Absent – None

Also Present – City Manager- Douglas Terry, Clerk-Susan Ballinger, Treasurer-Jill Pelham, Chief Michelin, DPW Superintendant-Tony Langhann, Assessor- Jim Uyl, and Johan Van DeWeerd.

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

Call to the Public – None

Public Hearing – IFT Johan Van De Weerd, Co. Inc. – Mayor, Smith opened the public hearing at 6:33pm. Councilman Siebert questioned about how many jobs would be created. Manager, Terry stated that after speaking with Mr. Van DeWeerd, the IFT would retain at least 10 current jobs plus possibly create two or three jobs. Mayor, Smith asked if the IFT would be at 50% for 12 years. Manager, Terry stated the IFT would be for eleven years. Jim Uyl stated the IFT will only be for eleven years beginning tax year 2014, because the processing deadline of October 31, 2012 was not met. Mayor, Smith closed the public hearing at 6:36p.m.

Resolution 2012-12-IFT Johan Van DeWeerd Co. Inc.- Councilman Bannick moved to adopt Resolution 2012-12 IFT Van DeWeerd Inc., seconded by Councilwoman, Thomas. Motion Carried.

Assessor's Report – Jim Uyl – Jim gave the annual PA 198 report to the board and stated that employment has increased by 6.4% in the last year; the board reviewed and discussed the report. Councilman, Smith moved to accept the Annual PA 198 and place on file, seconded by Councilwoman, Bills. Motion Carried

Right-of-Way Request Semco Gas line – Manager, Terry informed the board that Semco is requesting to put in a 6 inch steel gas pipe going out to the Power Plant. Manager, Terry explained to the board the need for this new gas main for the Power Plant. Manager, Terry recommends approval of this easement and Semco will be drawing up a deed for the easement which will be reviewed by our city attorney. Mayor, Smith asked where this line will be fed from or where would the line be tied in. Manger, Terry stated M-99 following the nature trail back into the plant itself. Mayor, Smith asked which side of the railroad bed the line would be put in. Superintendent, Langhann stated it would be on the south side. Councilwoman, Thomas moved to approve a tentative easement for Semco Energy to allow a gas line along the city's natural trail pending the presentation of a descriptive easement for the board's approval, seconded by Councilman, Smith. Motion Carried

Fire Board B-Laws-Litchfield Fire Board & City of Litchfield - Councilwoman, Thomas to accept and place on file the By-Laws for the Litchfield Fire Board, seconded by Councilman, Bannick. Motion Carried

Second Reading to Adopt Ordinance 2012-04 – To Approve the Editing & Inclusion of Certain Ordinances and Resolutions – Councilman, Smith moved to adopt Ordinance 2012-04, seconded by Councilman, Chapman. otion Carried

Bills for Approval – Councilman, Bannick moved to approve the bills in the amount of \$61,879.88 and charge to the proper accounts, seconded by Councilman, Smith. Motion Carried.

Police Report – Chief, Michelin informed the board that new car is good and that Officer, Henley has went full time with the City of Reading and is no longer employed with the City of Litchfield. Councilman, Bannick moved to accept the Police Report and place on file, seconded by Councilwoman, Thomas Motion Carried.

Public Works Report –Superintendant, Langhann stated that included the Well reports for the board to review. Councilwoman, Bills moved to accept the Public Works Report and place it on file, seconded, by Councilwoman Thomas. Motion Carried.

Treasurers Update – Treasurer, Pelham informed the board that she is still working on auditing the financial

statements. There were things that needed to be changed for correction. The Audit will be presented to the board in December when everything is complete and accurate.

City Manager's Update – Manager Terry stated that he had spoke with Lansing regarding personal property tax and the phase out will begin in 2013 with all commercial property that has a cap of \$40,000 and under will be eliminated. In 2016 all industrial personal property will start a phase out going through the year 2022. Lansing is supposed to make up the revenue difference by giving the city approximately 81% of our tax credits. So the question is when this reimbursement of 81% would begin and currently no one can answer that question. Mayor, Smith asked how the state will know what to base the 80% on. Manager, Terry stated its 80% of personal property tax revenue and the Department of Treasurer has that information. Mayor, Smith stated that when the personal property tax begins phase out none of the industries will have to report and there is nothing to base the 80% on. Treasurer, Pelham stated that the city will still have real property IFT and personal property still being phased out to report, but after the personal property is completely phased out Treasurer Pelham doesn't know what the state will base the 80% on.

Manager, Terry informed the board of the Stock Street survey and the city has a preliminary survey that has been completed. Manager, Terry stated that he has spoke with Mr. Burns, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Gow and Mr. Walters. The surveyor wants to meet with the mayor and myself next week and then the survey should be finalized and the city can release the final survey to the public. Parrish will begin work on the new water main sometime next week.

Manager, Terry stated that the illustration in there packets of playground equipment. There are two different options on sets of playground equipment, Gametime has a program that gives a 50% grant on equipment and the prices in front of you reflect the 50% already, and the city would install this in Firemen's Park. Mayor, Smith stated that this equipment has to be ordered by Nov. 15th which is only two days away. Mary Smith, I, and a representative from Gametime looked at both the parks by the school and Fireman's Park and after some discussion the question is which park would the new equipment be used mostly. After discussion amongst the board members it is the consensus of the board to recommend the new equipment option #2 be placed at the park by the school and pool area. Councilman, Smith asked where the match would come from for this grant. Mayor, Smith stated from an outside source. Manager, Terry with the money being donated the city for the match we would require a motion to move forward to acquire the equipment. Councilwoman, Thomas moved to allow the Mayor and City Manager move forward with recommendation of Option #2 playground equipment pending the donation of \$6,000, seconded by Councilman, Smith. Motion Carried

Manager, Terry stated that Don and Mary Smith donated \$1,500.00 to the city and is to be designated to use at the pool. A covered seating area for shade, we have looked at a table that would be bolted to the concrete and an umbrella would be used for shade and we have looked an awning that would cover one end of the pool.

Committee Reports – Councilman, Smith stated that the Fireboard has a new member Vena Wade has replaced Tony Langhann. Mayor, Smith stated the township board approved a 2% increase in their annual payment for fire and the city should think about doing the same.

Councilman Concerns – Councilwoman, Bills informed that board that she is trying to have a Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 1st to help attract people to the lighting of the downtown park.

Adjournment – Councilman, Chapman moved to adjourn at 7:35pm, seconded by Councilman, Bannick. Motion Carried.

Susan H. Ballinger, Clerk

Edwin J. Smith, Mayor