

REGULAR MEETING
Litchfield City Council - City Council Room
April 18, 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, Hillsdale County Commissioner- Julie Game and Abraham Dane.

Consent Agenda – Councilman Siebert moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, support by Councilwoman Bills. Motion carried.

Call to the Public – None

Litchfield Senior Contract – Councilman Bannick moved to approve the Senior Contract in amount of \$650.00 and authorizes Mayor Smith to sign, support by Councilman Siebert. Motion Carried.

Resolution 2017-01 as Amended-Speedrack Rehabilitation District – Councilman Bannick moved to adopt the Resolution 2017-01 as amended, support by Councilwoman Bills. Motion Carried.

Resolution 2017-08 as Amended Litchfield Pool Project - Councilman Bannick moved to adopt Resolution 2017-08 as amended, support by Councilwoman Bills. Motion Carried.

First Reading of Ordinance 2017-01 Establishing Salaries For Certain Appointed Officials- Clerk Ballinger gave a first reading of Ordinance 2017-01 with no action to be taken at this time.

Accept/Approve Resignation Compensation Committee Member – Veryle Roggenbuk – Councilman Bannick moved to accept Mrs. Roggenbuk's resignation with regrets, support by Councilman Smith. Motion Carried.

2017-2018 Budget Presentation – Manger Terry presented the board with a balanced and surplus budget. Manager Terry went over both revenues and expenditures each fund with the board. The city maintains a 3 month cash reserve. Manager Terry informed the board that there is a new roof in the budget for the old public works garage. Manager Terry went over the water and sewer rates and the reasons why a rate increase is needed. Treasurer Barrett pointed out that there was a rate study done with other communities for their water and sewer rates which can be found in their packets and that even though the we are increasing rates by 10% the residents increase on their bill will average between 6% and 8.5% because the city isn't raising solid waste collection on the residents bill.

Manager Terry gave an explanation of how the city treats its lagoons. The city administration is recommending a chemical treatment which the solids in the sewer lagoons will be dissipated and this treatment will by the city a lot of time and preserve the life of the lagoon and the cost to do this treatment will cost \$18,240 over the next three years for a total cost of \$54,720.00. The cost to build another lagoon structure would cost millions of dollars.

Manager Terry talked about problems with the water tower communications. The city needs to update the control systems for the wells and the budget committee agreed.

Councilman Smith pointed out that without TIFA's support the city would be in trouble with water and sewer both. Treasurer Barrett pointed out that TIFA's support is the reason why we have not had to jump the rates high all at once.

Set Public Hearing Date for Budget – Councilman Smith moved to set the public hearing for May 16, 2017, support by Councilman Siebert. Motion Carried.

Bills for Approval – Councilman Bannick moved to pay the bills as presented in the amount of \$47,596.21, seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried.

Police Report – Councilman Bannick 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 Councilman Reynolds. Motion carried.

Treasurers Update – Treasurer Barrett informed the board that the budget has consumed most of her time and she has been able to collect all the personal property taxes.

City Manager's Update – Manager Terry talked about the city's ISO report and pointed out the Tony Langhann and Dan Roberts worked very hard getting this work done and the city received a fire rating of 5 which is very good.

Manager Terry stated that he and Mayor Smith work a lot on TIFA issues working on things in the industrial park.

Councilwoman Bills informed the board that the City Officials, School Officials, TIFA, Litchfield Township and Bill Nobles from the training center got together and talked about doing a better job marketing the city. We talked with Sue Smith from EDP who talked with Hope a representative for a marketing firm out of Adrian that she deals with and they gave us proposal of what it would cost to help us start marketing. All the different boards and committees will split the cost and once we all agree we can give Hope the go ahead and when that section is done we can decide to keep going further with marketing or go on by ourselves.

Manager Terry stated there will be TV commercials advertising Hawthorne Heights lots, there will pop ups and on the computer and inserts in employees checks. You will see a lot of marketing of Litchfield going on. We are trying to attract people live here.

Correspondence – None

Committee Reports – None

Councilpersons Concerns – None

Adjournment – Councilman Bannick moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m., seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried.