

REGULAR MEETING
Litchfield City Council - City Council Room
August 19, 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, Dan Efstathiou, OR Smith and Don Bannick.

Absent – Brenda Thomas,

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

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

Call to the Public – None

MDOT/City of Litchfield Contract-Approval for Manager to sign State Trunkline Maintenance Contract- Councilman, Bannick moved to adopt the Trunkline Maintenance contract for MDOT/City of Litchfield and authorizing City Manager, Terry to sign the contract, seconded by Councilman, Smith. Motion Carried

Resolution 2014-13 Medical Marijuana – Councilman, Bannick moved to adopt Resolution 2014-13, seconded by Councilwoman, Bills. Motion Carried.

Accept Letter of Resignation – Chief, John Michelin – Manager, Terry acknowledged what a wonderful job John has done for the city and its residents and thanked John for all his dedication to the Litchfield community. Chief, Michelin thanked the city board, fire board, DPW and city staff for all their help and working as a team together. Councilman, Bannick moved to accept Chief, Michelin's letter of resignation with regrets, seconded by Councilman, Siebert. Motion Carried

Bills for Approval – Councilman, Bannick moved to approve the bills in the amount of \$70,098.08 and apply to the proper accounts, seconded by Councilman, Smith Motion Carried.

Police Report – Councilwoman, Bills moved to accept and place on file the police report, seconded by Councilman, Siebert. Motion Carried.

Public Works Report – Manager, Terry informed the board that Superintendent, Langhann is at a County Fireboard Meeting. Manager, Terry stated that dpw has been looking at the video of the Sanitary Sewer pipe in Hawthorne Heights Phase IV and everything looks to be fine in that area. Public Works was busy with the Sweet Corn Day Festival this month and have been working on some storm clean up. Councilman, Siebert moved accept and place on file the public works report, seconded by Councilman, Bannick. Motion Carried.

Treasurers Update – Treasurer, Pelham stated that she is working on closing of the books and TIFA is completed and she is in the middle of the city's books closure and in two weeks the books will be turned over to the auditors. The auditors will prepare the financial statements and once the statements are prepared Treasurer, Pelham will review those statements. Treasurer, Pelham is hoping to have the first report to the board by the September meeting, if not it will be presented at the October meeting. Treasurer, Pelham thanked everyone that worked in the festival.

City Manager's Update – Manager, Terry stated that over the last six months a group of community members and Manager, Terry have been discussing developing summer recreation programs. One of the challenges is the lack of volunteers. So this group is working toward developing a more organized and structured recreation program and this group wants to do this year round. This year the group will be working toward a flag football program for our youth. Manager, Terry will be talking with the Treasurer/Finance director on this subject. Manager, Terry is excited to reinvigorate athletics as part of summer recreation. Manager, Terry stated he realizes the city spends a lot on the pool but if we can offer more things to our community that's a good thing.

Manager, Terry informed the board that the way he foresees handling the issue of the Police Chief positions to put a memo together that will go to our internal police officers. Interested officers that are currently employed by the City of Litchfield will be interviewed and John Michelin will take part in those interviews. Manager, Terry stated he will put together a criteria of performance and name somebody based on interviews as Interim Police Chief for six months. Over this six month period there will be weekly, monthly and periodic reviews, we will evaluate the job that they are doing and if they are doing a great job that's all that much better for our future and if not then we will move on to other things. Manager, Terry feels this is the right approach. Manager, Terry welcomes any comments and/or suggestions that the board might have on this subject.

Manager, Terry wanted to inform the board of what's been going on with the City of Hillsdale and stated that many of the board members have probably read an article in the Hillsdale Daily News in regards to Manager, Terry being approached by the City of Hillsdale for employment. Manager, Terry stated approximately six weeks ago I was approached by their City Manager because she has a serious ailment. The City of Hillsdale is currently having discussions and Manager, Terry stated that he informed Hillsdale City that he would do what he could to help them and as of yesterday, I informed the Mayor and some of our council members that he would help Hillsdale on an interim basis and according to the Hillsdale City Charter for only 60 days. Manager, Terry stated he informed our board that he is not the best choice for Hillsdale's replacement; Manager, Terry stated he is very comfortable here in Litchfield and yet he wants to help both his friend/colleague and the City of Hillsdale, but he is not their long term solution. Manager, Terry stated he will help them find qualified candidates for that position and then move on.

Correspondence – Councilman, Smith asked how we going to handle the school correspondence. Mayor, Smith asked if there were any questions on the correspondence. Councilman, Smith stated that the letter from the city attorney addressed the fact the city is not able to eliminate the bussing and feels the city needs to look at minimizing or not making it so advantageous to go to Jonesville as well as Hillsdale.

Mayor, Smith asked if any board member would like to attend the MML Annual Meeting and if so the board would need to designate that person as the City of Litchfield voting representative. No board member will be attending this year's annual meeting.

Committee Reports – None

Councilman Concerns- None

Adjournment – Councilman, Bannick moved to adjourn at 6:53m, seconded by Councilwoman, Bills Motion Carried.