

REGULAR MEETING
Litchfield City Council - City Council Room
July 15, 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, Steve Pelham, Andy Barrand-HDN, Stephen Besson –State Candidate, Mary Burns, Mike Burns, Bill Owens, Kenneth Burns.

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

Call to the Public –Stephen Besson, candidate for State Representative, gave the board information regarding his educational background and asked for the boards support for the 58th District seat in the August primary.

Mike Burns Presentation - Mr. Burns informed the board with an overview of his business and how it's become more diversified and expanded over the past few years. Mr. Burns stated that he is in the process of rejuvenating the old Thriftway into mini storage units and arbor storage and it's slowly progressing. Mr. Burns feels that his business doesn't get a chance to bid on city projects and that there is some bias happening and feels as a community and business owners there should be a way to overcome this; Mr. Burns continued to explain to the board all the things his business can offer the city. Mr. Burns gave information regarding his lake project that he and his family have been working on for the last fifteen years which is 500 ft. from the city limits. Mr. Burns has plans of one day having 70 acres of the lake project area being developed into home developed lots which would then have a tax value of real property of about 42 million dollars. This is future equity that will come into both the city and township communities. Mr. Burns went on to explain what benefits this will bring to Litchfield Schools, Litchfield Fire Department and the restaurants, and other businesses in the future. Mr. Burns stated that he read about the resurfacing of the tennis courts in the local paper and feels there is a lack of communication somewhere that needs to be addressed. Mr. Burns would like to see the township and the city work together on projects and promoting each other's businesses. Mr. Burns asked as council works into the future he wants the board to know where his business is headed and his business is here and working for this community and would really like the boards support in the future. Don Bannick questioned Mr. Burns on being contacted about the tennis/basketball courts. Mr. Burns stated that he was not contacted by the city in anyway but he was contacted by Parrish Excavating in regards to cement. Mr. Burns stated that Parrish is not on the city's tax roll as he is and his business can provide all the work needed for the courts and provide a competitive bid to the city.

Public Hearing – Tifa Extension – Mayor, Smith opened the hearing at 6:45pm with no questions or comments, Mayor, Smith closed the hearing at 6:46pm.

Resolution Amending Development/Tax Increment Financing Plan Dated May 16, 1985 and Amending Resolution 2005-03 Adopted by Litchfield City Council February 16, 2005- Councilman, Siebert moved to adopt Amended Resolution 2005-03, seconded by Councilman, Smith. Motion Carried

Resolution 2014-12 City of Litchfield to Support August Primary Ballot Proposal #1 – Councilman, Siebert moved to adopt Resolution 2014-12, seconded by Councilwoman, Bills. Motion Carried.

Retain CHBW & Co., P.C. for Audit 2013-2014 and Authorize City Manager and Mayor to sign- Councilman, Smith moved to accept the Letter of Engagement and authorize the Mayor and City Manager to sign, seconded by Councilman, Bannick. Motion Carried.

Computer Upgrades – Treasurer, Pelham informed the board that the city had budgeted for upgrades for computers that were still on XP and the city contracts with a company that the city contracts with that strictly does government work. This company I.T. Right works closely with our software company BS & A. Treasurer, Pelham based the budget off I.T. Right's quote and what she is asking of council is to formally accept I.T. Right's quote. I.T. Right did in addition include a \$700.00 dollar printer for free. There is a charge of \$180.00 within the bid that is for the Fire Departments Windows 7 upgrade and the Fire Department will be bringing that to their board tomorrow for approval so that amount will be off the city's bill. Councilman, Bannick moved to approve the quote from I.T. Right in the amount of \$3532.00 for computer upgrades, seconded by Councilman, Smith. Motion Carried.

Bills for Approval – Councilman, Bannick moved to approve the bills in the amount of \$52,766.62 and apply to the proper accounts, seconded by Councilwoman, Bills. Motion Carried.

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

Public Works Report – Tony Langhann stated cleanup at Firemen's Park should start Thursday and they sold some of the logs which should cover cost to clean that area up. Councilwoman, Bills moved to accept and place on file the public works report, seconded by Councilman, Smith. Motion Carried.

Treasurers Update – Treasurer, Pelham stated that the quarterly financial statement is pretty close to where the city is in regards to cash for the fiscal year end. There will be some changes as far as assets. General Fund has approximately a cash position of \$228,000.00. Treasurer, Pelham said the city done very well staying within the budget after the amendments. Treasurer, Pelham went over the fiscal year cash amounts of each fund. Treasurer, Pelham will give a more thorough report when she is done closing the books.

City Manager's Update – Manager, Terry reported to the board stating that he is meeting with Consumers Energy Forestry Department in regards to the Cotton Wood tree that came down during the storm by the bridge knocking a piece of concrete off support of the bridge. The city needs to review where it's most vulnerable, because power could have been restored sooner had there been fewer obstacles/damage. The bridge was an MDOT project when streetscape happened a few years ago and between the contractors, MDOT and project manager there was discussion about the deterioration on the top deck of the bridge. MDOT was successful in fixing the bridge under warranty but MDOT has a requirement that they have to cure the cement and hopefully the bridge will reopen next week.

Manager, Terry stated that Litchfield Initiative has been active in training with the welding program and would like to see the program expand. Hi-Lex celebrated their 25th anniversary and Manager, Terry thanked them for the tour.

Manager, Terry stated that he would like to clarify one thing and that there are no means to try and exclude anybody from anything and when the grant was written for the tennis/basketball courts. When putting prices together I contacted Excell Paving to give me an idea of cost of returning them to asphalt. Mayor, Smith suggested that I look into cement instead which is a good idea and this is the beginning of a process and everybody will be given an opportunity to bid. However, the way the specs will be written is to probably look at two different types of materials asphalt and concrete and see what the city can get as far as longevity. Manager, Terry believes that is the proper approach to take on that project. The city has been pleased with the materials that have been purchased from Mr. Burns in the past. No recommendations have been brought to the board yet, because there have been other projects that have taken priority and the city has a year to complete the tennis/basketball courts. As soon as the city moves forward on that project Manager, Terry will bring those bids back to council.

Councilman, Siebert questioned the sign by Mill St. at the city limit and asked is the city responsible to fill the holes. Tony stated that both his department and the county road commission have been trying to keep Mill St. in better maintenance, but between the rain, grading, and non-stop traffic it's not holding together. Mr. Burns stated that the township has sprayed brine to try and help with the Mill St. problem. Manager, Terry stated the rain is hurting the city; it needs to dry up first.

Chief, Michelin informed the board that he did hire a new part-time officer that brings 18 years experience his name is James Sherman.

Committee Reports – Councilman, Smith stated the new fire department leaders have been working on updating procedures and it's working out very well.

Councilman Concerns- Councilman, Siebert thanked everyone that showed up for Hi-Lex's 25th anniversary celebration.

Councilwoman, Bills wants to address a letter that was given to the board from concerned residents regarding other community buses picking up children at multiple places within the Litchfield city limits. Councilman, Bannick stated he agrees with the letter that suggests our council reach out to the surrounding districts and ask for buses to stop entering into the city limits and look into a possible ordinance that prohibits buses picking or dropping off within our city limits. Manager, Terry recommended that this letter be forwarded to our city attorney for his review and forward this onto the township because they are also an affected municipality that serves Litchfield Schools. A copy of the letter was given to Mr. Burns. Councilwoman, Bills doesn't know if the city should create an ordinance but ask if the buses stop outside or at the edge of the city limits. It was consensus of the board to have our city attorney review the letter.

Correspondence –

Adjournment – Councilman, Bannick moved to adjourn at 7:11pm, seconded by Councilman, Siebert. Motion Carried.