

REGULAR MEETING
Litchfield City Council - City Council Room
June 18, 2019 - 6:30 PM

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

Roll Call: Present – Mayor Smith, Councilpersons – Don Bannick, Rick Siebert, Dan Efstathiou, and Kevin Collins

Absent: Andy Reynolds and Jessica Bills

Also Present – City Manager - Douglas Terry, Treasurer/Finance Director - Jill Barrett, Police Chief. –Dan Roberts, DPW Superintendent – Tony Langhann, Deputy Clerk – Lauren Skelly, Homer Index – Mike Warner, Jones & Henry Rep.- Aaron Davenport, Abe Dane, Matt & Cindy Paletis, Dave & Valerie Coler, and Hillsdale County Emergency Management – Doug Sanford

Absence – Councilman Bannick moved to excuse the absence of Councilmembers Bills & Reynolds, supported by Siebert. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda – Councilman Siebert moved to approve the consent agenda as presented and place on file, seconded by Councilman Efstathiou. Motion carried.

Call to the Public- None

Engineer's Update – Mill Race/Mill Street – Manager Terry introduced Mr. Aaron Davenport of Jones & Henry to the board and public. Mr. Davenport stated that a survey was completed earlier today on both the Mill Race and Mill Street. Mr. Davenport gave an update on the Mill Race and removing the dam. Mr. Davenport showed the board some historical data on the Mill Race with a FEMA computer model graph; the historical data will be compared to the physical survey for analysis. Mr. Davenport is very confident that removal of the dam will stop the problems with non-stop pumping and elicit discharges in the sanitary sewer system. Pioneer Drive residents Matt & Cindy Paletis and Dave & Valerie Coler gave comments on the effect the Mill Race has had on their homes and property. Mr. Davenport and Manager Terry agreed the number one priority is always human health and making sure there are no sewer backups. Mayor Smith stated that's where the City is at right now by trying to ensure the main pumps don't fail because of the extra pumping. Mr. Davenport stated that after he reviews the survey results all options will be investigated and discussed with the State of Michigan DEQ and DNR. Manager Terry asked Mr. Davenport if he would be willing to talk to residents if they had questions. Mr. Davenport stated he would speak to residents regarding the engineering and science behind the removal of the dam.

Mayor Smith asked Mr. Davenport on the progress of Mill Street. Mr. Davenport stated the survey was completed earlier today and once the results are reviewed, they will design and submit to the State for permit.

Public Hearing – MSHDA Housing – Mayor Smith opened the public hearing at 7:04 p.m. Manager Terry gave an update on the MSHDA Mod Program and the need for affordable workforce housing within the City. Mayor Smith closed the public hearing at 7:23 p.m.

Resolution 2019-12 – Establishing Authorized Signatures for MERS – Councilman Bannick moved to adopt Resolution 2019-12, supported by Councilman Efstathiou. Motion carried.

Resolution 2019-13 –Budget Amendments 2018-2019 – Councilman Siebert moved to adopt Resolution 2019-13, supported by Councilman Efstathiou. Motion carried.

Resolution 2019-14 –MSHDA MOD Program Grant Application – Councilman Bannick moved to reject Resolution 2019-14, supported by Councilman Siebert. Councilman Bannick then withdrew his previous motion, supported by Councilman Siebert. Councilman Bannick moved to adopt Resolution 2019-14, supported by Councilman Efstathiou. 1 Nay vote by Councilman Siebert. Motion carried 4-1.

Doug Sanford – Hillsdale County 911 Director Report – Mr. Doug Sanford gave a brief update on Hillsdale County 911. Mr. Sanford advised council of the new facility and changes to using 911 such as texting and Smart 911 profiles. Mr. Sanford stated there will be an election on August 6, 2019 asking for a telephone surcharge renewal.

Review/Discuss Grass Ordinance 2018-04 – Discussion was held regarding the grass ordinance. Police Chief Roberts stated that his practice this year has been to stop and inform residents of the ordinance when he comes upon the issue. Chief Roberts stated that this practice has been effective with the residents that he has informed and he hasn't had problems with second offenses. Discussion was held on using the City's website, social media, and water bills to educate residents of the ordinance. Councilman Siebert requested that administration give notice to residents by compiling a letter to explain and make them aware of the ordinance.

Planning Commission Reappointment – Melinda Dinwiddie – Councilman Bannick moved to reappoint Melinda Dinwiddie to the Planning Commission, supported by Councilman Efstathiou. Motion carried.

2019 Sweet Corn Days Festival/Sweet Corn Days Committee Members – City Sponsorship – Councilman Bannick moved to sponsor the 2019 Sweet Corn Days Festival, the Sweet Corn Days committee members and its volunteers, supported by Councilman Collins. Motion carried.

2019 Fireworks Permit & Agreement – Authorize Mayor to Sign – Councilman Bannick moved to allow fireworks during the 2019 Sweet Corn Days Festival and authorize Mayor to sign, supported by Councilman Collins. Motion carried.

Road Paving Update and Adjustments – City Manager Terry gave an update on the completion of paving Washington Street. Manager Terry recapped the change to the paving schedule from East and Williams Streets to N. Chicago Street. Manager Terry stated the contractor (Belson Asphalt) has informed him that they don't believe removing two inches and replacing two inches would be a very good approach. He stated the contractors feel that there is not a sufficient base on N. Chicago Street to make the two inches last. Manager Terry stated the contractor has provided alternative numbers for costs of multiple options including 4 inches, 3.5 inches and 3 inches. Manager Terry stated the contractor has suggested they use the millings as a base. Manager Terry recommended to mill up 4 inches, use those compacted millings as a base, and replace with 4 inches of 4E Original Design Mix. Treasurer Jill Barrett stated that she did add the change to the budget amendments however she did not accommodate the difference of the 4E mixture. Treasurer Barrett stated if the change was approved an additional amendment to the budget would need to be made. Mayor Smith moved to approve the 4 inch, 4E Original Design Mix for \$141,593 and changing the budget amendment in Major Street Routine Maintenance Contractual Services from \$136,815 to \$145,472, supported by Councilman Bannick. Motion carried.

Sewer Credit – 243 N. Chicago St. – Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Lauren Skelly informed the board of the request from Mr. Brinks, homeowner of 243 N. Chicago Street. Mr. Brinks had an outside faucet turned on and is requesting a sewer credit. Councilman Bannick moved to approve the sewer credit in the amount of \$57.13, supported by Councilman Collins. Motion carried.

Bills for Approval – Councilman Bannick moved to approve the bills in the amount of \$45,025.41 and charge to the proper accounts, seconded by Councilman Siebert. Motion carried.

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

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

Treasurers Update – Treasurer Jill Barrett informed the board that she has been working on budget amendments and getting taxes ready to go out July 1st.

City Manager's Update – Manager Terry stated that he and the Mayor have been working on the pool design and met with engineers today and they are communicating with the DNR.

Correspondence –None

Committee Reports – None

Councilpersons Concerns – None

Adjournment – Councilman Bannick moved to adjourn at 8:08 p.m., seconded by Councilman Siebert. Motion carried.