

REGULAR MEETING  
Litchfield City Council - City Council Room  
March 18, 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, Brenda Thomas and Don Bannick.

Absent – OR Smith

Also Present – City Manager- Douglas Terry, Clerk-Susan Ballinger, Treasurer-Jill Pelham, Chief, John Michelin, DPW Superintendent-Tony Langhann, Admin/ Asst. - Lauren Skelly, Neil Brady-Hillsdale County Prosecutor.

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

**Call to the Public** – Hillsdale County Prosecutor, Neal Brady introduced himself to the board and stated that he just wanted to inform them that he plans to run for the Hillsdale County Judge open seat due to the retirement of Judge Sanders. Mr. Brady gave a brief update of his career and background and thanked the board for their time and support.

**Refund Request 130 Hoose Court sewer repair** - Gary Panicacci- Manager, Terry stated that he was contacted by Mr. Panicacci and was asked for the council to consider a full or partial refund on his cost to repair his sewer line. Manager, Terry informed Mr. Panicacci that he would bring his request to the board but could not guarantee a refund would be given. After a brief discussion amongst the board the request was denied. Councilman, Don Bannick moved to deny the sewer repair refund request of \$230.00 for 130 Hoose Court, seconded by Councilman Siebert. Motion Carried.

**Bills for Approval** – Councilman, Bannick moved to approve the bills in the amount of \$105,284.36 and apply to the proper accounts, seconded by Councilwoman, Bills. Motion Carried.

**Police Report** - Chief, Michelin stated that everything in his department is going well and that two of his officers would be at training for the next three days. Councilman, Siebert moved to accept the police report as presented and place on file, seconded by Councilwoman, Thomas. Motion Carried.

**Public Works Report** – Councilman Siebert, moved to accept the public works report and place on file, seconded by Councilwoman, Bills. Motion Carried.

**Treasurers Update** – Treasurer, Pelham informed the board that the tax settlement with the county went well. Treasurer, Pelham stated this year's loss of the personal property tax changes anything that is \$40,000 or less is exempt for taxation in 2014. It really hasn't affected the industrial park but has affected the DDA's capture for the 2014 tax year. Treasurer, Pelham doesn't feel the tax changes will affect the city that much this year. The budget timeline is in their packets for the boards review and she plans to set up a date around the week of April 10th with the budget committee.

**City Manager's Update** - Manager, Terry informed the board that the State Boundary Commission is in receipt of the city's application for the annexation of the golf course property into the city. Also, Tony Francis has retired but will return to work for the city on a part-time basis in April after a 30 day separation. Manager, Terry stated that he has spoke with department heads and employees about the different needs of the city. It will be challenging this year and our office is receiving recreation requests such as the rotary wants to do a project and other things and with reductions in the personal property tax it will be difficult budget to submit to council with all the things the city would like to do and yet maintain services. Manager, Terry stated that the public safety is number one when working with the budget. Councilman, Siebert questioned the maintenance of the city streets. Manager, Terry stated that the city's approach on fixing potholes is by heating up the pothole first then clearing/cleaning it out and then heat up the cold patch itself before filling the hole. The public works department has been doing a great job staying on top of these potholes.

**Committee Reports** –

**Councilman Concerns-** Councilwoman, Thomas stated that it was her understanding the RU response time has been cut in half coming to Litchfield from Jonesville. Manager, Terry stated that he could not verify that but he believed it to be true.

**Correspondence** –

**Adjournment** – Councilman, Bannick moved to adjourn at 6:58pm, seconded by Councilman, Siebert. Motion Carried.