

**City of Litchfield**  
**120 E. Ryder, Litchfield, Illinois**  
**Official Open Session Meeting Minutes**  
**January 22, 2026**  
**6:30 P.M.**

Mayor Fleming called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Present on roll call were, Alderperson Sisson, Alderperson Sara Zumwalt, Alderperson Robbin Huffman, Alderperson Josh Hughes, Alderperson Bob Garcia, Alderperson Holloway, and Alderperson Ray Kellenberger. The mayor declared that a quorum was present.

Others Present: Breann Vazquez, City Administrator, Vickie Throne, City Clerk, Trent Carriger, City Attorney

Absent: Alderperson Gerl

Recognition of Visitors and Special Guest: Christy Crites, Engineer Crawford, Murphy and Tilly

**Update Water Plant**

Christy Crites from Crawford Murphy and Tilly provided an update regarding the water plant. Christy reported that we were able to return to the ammonia system about a week ago and we are now back on chloramines. The city has been working hard to flush out the old water so that the taste will be back to normal. Keep in mind that the weather has not been cooperating and there are areas that may take a bit longer to flush the old water out. Christy reported that we continue to make progress at the plant with improvements, and the staff out there are doing a fantastic job of attacking the maintenance issues. Christy reported that there was another turbidity spike, but wanted to assure the public once again, it is not a public health issue. Christy reported that there will be another notice coming out regarding that issue. Christy again wants to remind everyone that our drinking water is absolutely safe to drink. The first step in the treatment process has been completed by getting the clarifiers cleaned out. They are running fantastically and we are now getting excellent quality water out of those. The next step in that process are sand filters. Those are scheduled to begin a rehabilitation process with a tentative date of February 5<sup>th</sup>. That will give you a much better quality of water and the peak performance of the plant will be back to where it was when we started the plant up for the first time. Jake asked Christy if he understood correctly that the water has always been safe to drink and now that updates have been completed and the switch has been made back to chloramines, we will have better tasting water. Christy reported that information is correct. Some areas may take a bit longer to get the better tasting water, but it is all safe to drink.

**City Report:**

Mayor Fleming reported that there will be a public meeting on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall regarding hunting in public spaces around the lake and other areas owned by the city. We had this discussion at a previous council meeting, and we received a tremendous amount of feedback from the public. Mayor Fleming reported that we are not trying to take away the rights of hunters as we all believe in hunting. We just want it to be done safely and know

**City of Litchfield**  
**120 E. Ryder, Litchfield, Illinois**  
**Official Open Session Meeting Minutes**  
**January 22, 2026**  
**6:30 P.M.**

who is out there on city property. We want to make that transition as easy as possible. Our lake supervisor, who is deeply knowledgeable, will be at this meeting and she will have all the data you need.

Mayor Fleming reported that we have an agreement pending with the post office that involves keeping the box exactly where it is with minimal changes. We are now just waiting for it to go through the hierarchy of the post office. Once we have a definitive agreement Mayor Fleming will provide the public with an update.

Mayor Fleming reminded the public that we have pretty severe weather forecast for our area. It is going to be cold and Mayor Fleming reminded everyone to please check on their family and neighbors, especially the elderly. Also be safe out there if you have to go out.

**Public Participation**

Mayor Fleming reported that we have one speaker signed up for the public participation this evening. John Hanafin asked who represents the Walshville Township on the ambulance board? It is a county special service area, and he believes that someone from there should be on the board because it may be considered taxation without representation. Mayor Fleming thanked Mr. Hanafin for his feedback and for bringing this to the attention of the city. We will take this information provided and figure this out.

**Appointments:**

None

**Other Business:**

Aldersperson Sisson made a motion, seconded by Aldersperson Garcia, to approve minutes from the regular meeting held on January 6, 2026.

Mayor Fleming directed a roll call vote.

Aye: Holloway, Zumwalt, Hughes, Garcia, Huffman, Kellenberger, Sisson

Nay: None.

Absent: None

Abstain: Gerl

Motion carried.

Aldersperson Huffman made a motion, seconded by Aldersperson Holloway to approve the expenditure report and payroll report for the current period.

Mayor Fleming directed a roll call vote.

Aye: Garcia, Sisson, Zumwalt, Huffman, Kellenberger, Holloway, Hughes

Nay: None.

**City of Litchfield**  
**120 E. Ryder, Litchfield, Illinois**  
**Official Open Session Meeting Minutes**  
**January 22, 2026**  
**6:30 P.M.**

Absent: Gerl.  
Abstain: None  
Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

**Discussion**

Lee from Milano and Grunloh Engineering is here this evening to provide discussion regarding a project and grant update. Lee reported that we have we have four projects that are going to be constructed this year. We have the Skyview Drive that has already been bid out. We have a pre-construction meeting scheduled for the first week of February and the plan is to start work in March or April depending on the weather.

The next project moving forward is the Safe Routes to School. That project is funded, and that has a state letting date of April 24, 2026. They do not award those projects until after the next letting, which is in June, so the expected construction date will be sometime in July or August. Lee indicated that the city applied for another Safe Routes to School in October of last year and he expects that announcement to be made in March or April. That is not set in stone. It could be tomorrow. It could be August. So, once we hear something, they will let the city know.

Lee reported that they have been looking at plans with the city regarding the OSLAD Grant. They anticipate advertising that project within the next 30 days so that construction will take place this summer.

Lee reported that there is no update on the EPA Grant application.

The DCEO CDBG Public Infrastructure Grants amount is \$1,000,000.00 with no leverage required, but the applicant must pay all related costs. That grant was submitted to DCEO on January 18<sup>th</sup>. The project map and estimates are attached, and the total estimated construction cost is \$1,800,000.00. The city will contribute \$300,000.00 from their Waterworks fund. Grants were announced and the city was awarded \$1,499,999.00. M&G submitted the Environmental Report and Special Grant Conditions as state in the NOSAF. All work is planned to be on existing right-of-way. The SWPPP will be done after contract award. The IEPA permits have been received. Bids were opened on October 28, 2025, and the lowest bidder was Haier Plumbing and Heating, Inc., with a bid of \$1,763,517.00. Tentative plans are to have a pre-construction meeting in March and the contractor should begin construction in April.

Lee provided updates on the BRIC Grant. They are working on some mechanical issues and hope to have that resolved soon.

**City of Litchfield**  
**120 E. Ryder, Litchfield, Illinois**  
**Official Open Session Meeting Minutes**  
**January 22, 2026**  
**6:30 P.M.**

The Downtown RDMS Grant is still progressing. They checked on a grant modification which was not available. They have submitted the plans to IHPA. The project had a bid opening date of April 9, 2025, and it was over budget. The grant deadline was June 30, 2025, but was extended to the end of 2026 and no leverage is required. The second bid opening was held June 26, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Lee reported that the city did apply for the Unsewered Planning Grant for \$30,000.00 for the Horseshoe Lane area. The application was submitted via Amplifund on February 24<sup>th</sup> and was funded. The planning is in process.

Lee reported that grants are available for upgrading city parcels such as water plants, sewer plants, etc. Typically, an energy efficiency assessment must be done. The items need to be listed in the assessment.

The RDMS Grant application was submitted on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and not funded. The state received over one hundred applications and only funded approximately one out of five. They will continue to keep an eye out for another NOFO.

The Sallee Street contract is signed for Engineering. The topographic survey is complete, and M & G is working on the right-of-way and design. The SWPPP will be done after the contract award and the estimated bid date will be sometime in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2026, depending on IDOT Environmental approval.

The city applied for the Phase I Energy Transition Community Grant on March 14, 2025, and award notifications were sent on May 23, 2025, and the city is eligible for \$96,426.00 in grant funding. Phase II applications were due on July 30, 2025, and that application was submitted on July 18, 2025. The city's application was successful, and the grant agreement has been received.

The city applied for the Phase III Energy Transition Community Grant in June 2025. Award notifications were sent in October, and the city is eligible for \$73,527.70 in grant funding.

Lee provided an update on the DCEO Watermain Replacement. DCEO recently went over a few items that will be in effect for public infrastructure grant applications. He provided the city with the key components to a DCEO Grant and advised them on the requirements which are provided in the packet.

### **Lake**

Aldersperson Huffman made a motion, seconded by Aldersperson Kellenberger, to approve a resolution setting hourly wages for seasonal staff at Lake Lou Yaeger Recreational Area.

Discussion: None

**City of Litchfield**  
**120 E. Ryder, Litchfield, Illinois**  
**Official Open Session Meeting Minutes**  
**January 22, 2026**  
**6:30 P.M.**

Mayor Fleming directed a roll call vote.

Aye: Huffman, Kellenberger, Holloway, Hughes, Garcia, Sisson, Zumwalt

Nay: None.

Absent: Gerl.

Abstain: None.

Motion carried.

Aldersperson Huffman made a motion, seconded by Aldersperson Sisson, to approve an ordinance setting the 2026 Lake Lou Yaeger Recreational Area fees.

Discussion: None

Mayor Fleming directed a roll call vote.

Aye: Zumwalt, Huffman, Kellenberger, Holloway, Hughes, Garcia, Sisson

Nay: None.

Absent: Gerl.

Abstain: None.

Motion carried.

Aldersperson Huffman made a motion, seconded by Aldersperson Zumwalt, to the 2026 Lease Agreements and Rules and Regulations for both the Lake Front Seasonal Camping and the Bi-Centennial Campground Seasonal Camping.

Discussion: Mayor Fleming reported that there are no changes to the fees for this year.

Mayor Fleming directed a roll call vote.

Aye: Holloway, Hughes, Garcia, Sisson, Zumwalt, Huffman, Kellenberger

Nay: None.

Absent: Gerl.

Abstain: None.

Motion carried.

Aldersperson Huffman made a motion, seconded by Aldersperson Zumwalt, to approve the purchase of a self-service ice and water vending machine from Everest Ice and Water Systems for an amount not to exceed \$41,125.00.

Discussion: Aldersperson Garcia asked for clarification regarding who will be responsible for paying for this. City Administrator Breann Vazquez reported that the Lake Department would pay for this out of their budget. Aldersperson Kellenberger asked if it is not budgeted, where that money would come from. Breann reported that general fund does have ample funds to purchase this. Heather did a complete analysis and determined that this machine will pay for itself within three to four years. The issue last season was that the vendor who was supposed to provide the bags of ice to the lake, stopped showing up and did not have a delivery person available. Heather then had to take her truck into town and buy massive quantities of bagged ice from Wal-Mart

**City of Litchfield**  
**120 E. Ryder, Litchfield, Illinois**  
**Official Open Session Meeting Minutes**  
**January 22, 2026**  
**6:30 P.M.**

and then haul it back to the lake and unload it into the coolers. Heather did look into other purchase options, and they were much higher. Alderperson Hughes asked if we had looked into any type of grants or partnerships with private entities. Breann reported that there were no grants available that they were able to find. Heather reported that after the machine is paid for, the city will then have a profit off of every bag of ice and bottle of water that is sold. The way the ice is being managed now, the city is actually taking a loss. Heather provided the council members with a detailed analysis of the amount of ice sold last season and what the anticipated income would have been had we had this machine. It was also reported that this machine will have a three-year warranty. Heather visited a convenience store in Staunton that has this machine and was impressed with how well it works. The machine drum will always hold five hundred pounds of ice to be dispensed. There was discussion regarding the machine only taking cards and some would like to be able to use cash. The issue with cash is that sometimes it jams the machine and gives more of a possibility that people may try to break into the machine. There is a card that the public can purchase and put a set amount of money on the card to be used to purchase the ice and water. Those cards could be purchased at the marina store or the beach house. The machine would be housed in the little brown building that is right as you turn into the boat launch parking lot. The recommendation from the company was if we want the machine to take cash, we have that put on before the machine is delivered.

Mayor Fleming directed a roll call vote.

Aye: Kellenberger, Holloway, Hughes, Garcia, Sisson, Zumwalt, Huffman

Nay: None.

Absent: Gerl.

Abstain: None.

Motion carried.

Alderperson Huffman made a motion, seconded by Alderperson Zumwalt, to approve a Kayak Self-Serve Kiosk Station to be purchased from Outdoor Vending Solutions for an amount not to exceed \$13,268.00.

Discussion: Alderperson Zumwalt reported that this will be purchased with grant money.

Mayor Fleming directed a roll call vote.

Aye: Holloway, Hughes, Garcia, Sisson, Zumwalt, Huffinan, Kellenberger

Nay: None.

Absent: Gerl.

Abstain: None.

Motion carried.

## **Police**

Alderperson Holloway made a motion, seconded by Alderperson Sisson to approve a resolution approving a Memorandum of Understanding for the School Resource Officer with the Board of Education of the Litchfield Community School District #12.

**City of Litchfield**  
**120 E. Ryder, Litchfield, Illinois**  
**Official Open Session Meeting Minutes**  
**January 22, 2026**  
**6:30 P.M.**

Discussion: None.

Mayor Fleming directed a roll call vote.

Aye: Hughes, Garcia, Sisson, Zumwalt, Huffman, Kellenberger, Holloway

Nay: None.

Absent: Gerl.

Abstain: None.

Motion carried.

**Administration**

Aldersperson Hughes made a motion, seconded by Aldersperson Holloway to approve an ordinance authorizing its sale, specifically part of PIN #15-09-128-008 and part of PIN #15-09-18-005.

Discussion: Mayor Fleming reported that this motion is regarding the American Legion building adjacent to Walton Park. Mayor Fleming reminded the community members that this property was never part of Walton Park and that Walton Park is staying exactly where it is. Mayor Fleming reported that the reason this came up was that the city had someone approach them who was interested in purchasing the American Legion property. Aldersperson Holloway reported that he appreciated the public feedback. He reported that he represented the opposition from the one side of the room that was referenced in an online post. He explained that his initial feelings on the issue were to look out for what is in the best interest of the city and citizens both liability and fiscally. Aldersperson Holloway reported that he created an online survey to get the publics feedback, and he openly admits that after getting the feedback he was on the wrong side of the coin and he does change his stance on this decision and wants the public to know that he values their opinion. He also wanted to publicly apologize if there was any kind of personal disagreement between himself and Aldersperson Zumwalt. Aldersperson Hughes noted that he was undecided on this motion prior to receiving the publics feedback. Mayor Fleming also advised the public that any property that the city owns and considers selling must be made surplus to put the property out for bid. He also wanted to be clear that the person who approached the city would not get first dibs on this property. They would have to present a closed sealed bid on this, and the highest bidder would be awarded the sale of the property. Aldersperson Kellenberger reported that the Aldersperson's job is to do what their constituents want them to do. Mayor Fleming is hopeful that we can find a good use for this property and secure some grant funding to make improvements for public use.

Mayor Fleming directed a roll call vote.

Aye: None.

Nay: Garcia, Sisson, Zumwalt, Huffman, Kellenberger, Holloway, Hughes

Absent: Gerl.

Abstain: None.

Motion failed.

**City of Litchfield**  
**120 E. Ryder, Litchfield, Illinois**  
**Official Open Session Meeting Minutes**  
**January 22, 2026**  
**6:30 P.M.**

Aldersperson Hughes made a motion, seconded by Aldersperson Zumwalt to accept a proposal from Mike Klaves for landscaping services for an amount not to exceed \$31,450.00.

Discussion: Aldersperson Zumwalt wanted to report that this is being paid for through donations and Mayor Fleming confirmed that is correct.

Mayor Fleming directed a roll call vote.

Aye: Sisson, Gerl, Zumwalt, Huffman, Kellenberger, Holloway, Hughes, Garcia

Nay: None.

Absent: Gerl.

Abstain: None.

Motion carried.

### **Building and Zoning**

Aldersperson Zumwalt made a motion, seconded by Aldersperson Huffman to approve resolutions approving and authorizing the demolition agreements for structures on 1522 North Jackson, 1224 South Franklin, and 404 North Walnut.

Discussion: None

Mayor Fleming directed a roll call vote.

Aye: Zumwalt, Huffman, Kellenberger, Holloway, Hughes, Garcia, Sisson

Nay: None.

Absent: Gerl.

Abstain: None.

Motion carried.

### **Executive Session**

A Motion to Enter into Executive Session, as allowed under the Illinois Open Meetings Act, as found in Chapter 5 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, Section 120, to address these certain and restricted items:

1. "Discussion of minutes of meeting lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06." (5ILCS 120/2(2)(C)(21))
2. "The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body." (51LCS 120/2(2)(6))
3. "The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body ... " (5ILCS 120/2(2)(C)(1))

**City of Litchfield**  
**120 E. Ryder, Litchfield, Illinois**  
**Official Open Session Meeting Minutes**  
**January 22, 2026**  
**6:30 P.M.**

Aldersperson Zumwalt made a motion, seconded by Aldersperson Kellenberger to enter executive session at 7:10 p.m.

Mayor Fleming directed a roll call vote.

Aye: Zumwalt, Kellenberger, Sisson, Hughes, Garcia, Holloway, Huffman

Nay: None.

Absent: Gerl.

Abstain: None.

Motion carried.

Aldersperson Zumwalt excused herself and departed closed session at 7:47 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 8:25 p.m.

**New Business**

Aldersperson Garcia made a motion, seconded by Aldersperson Sisson to approve the Executive Session Minutes from the January 6, 2026, meeting.

Mayor Fleming directed a roll call vote.

Aye: Huffman Sisson, Garcia, Kellenberger, Hughes, Holloway

Nay: None.

Absent: Gerl, Zumwalt.

Abstain: None.

Motion carried.

**Adjournment**

Having no further business Aldersperson Kellenberger made a motion seconded by Aldersperson Sisson to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Mayor Fleming directed a roll call vote.

Aye: Sisson, Huffman, Hughes, Garcia, Kellenberger, Holloway

Nay: None.

Absent: Gerl, Zumwalt.

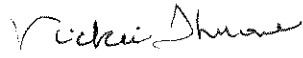
Abstain: None.

Motion carried.

Submitted by: Vickie Throne, City Clerk

**City of Litchfield**  
**120 E. Ryder, Litchfield, Illinois**  
**Official Open Session Meeting Minutes**  
**January 22, 2026**  
**6:30 P.M.**

Attest:



Vickie Throne  
City Clerk

Approved:



Jacob Fleming  
Mayor

