

Strawberry Point City Council
Regular Meeting January 3, 2018

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 3rd, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Bente presided and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members answering roll call were Rowcliffe, Chapman, Johnson, Evans and Hansel.

Evans made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Chapman, Johnson, Evans and Hansel. Nays: None. Motion passes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from December 20th

Claims

Johnson moved to approve the consent agenda. Evans seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Chapman, Johnson, Evans, Hansel, Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passes.

INFORMATION

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Council reviewed the request from the Moser School of Dance and Gymnastics to renew their rental agreement with the City for utilizing the Civic Center Gym. Council felt it was a positive use of the facility and were happy to continue this agreement with Moser. City Staff will ensure legal reviews the contract and updates it. Rowcliffe moved to renew the rental agreement with the Moser School of Dance and Gymnastics for the 2018-2019 season. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Johnson, Evans, Hansel, Rowcliffe, Chapman. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed information regarding the 6A Healthcare Preparedness Coalition & having the City of Strawberry Point participate. Funding for this coalition is through a grant. The City's role would be to house the position of one of the grant coordinators and to provide payroll services for their time. This position is being filled by Theresa Callahan, the City's Ambulance Director. All compensation for the work done is funded by the grant and there is no net cost to the City. In addition, the City will be charging a facility fee for housing the position and the use of utilities, etc. Council thought it was a great thing to get a part of. Rowcliffe felt it helped to keep Strawberry Point visible locally and at the state level. Evans made a motion to approve the City of Strawberry Point's participation in the 6A Healthcare Preparedness Coalition including housing a hospital preparedness grant coordinator. Chapman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Evans, Hansel, Rowcliffe, Chapman. Nays: None. Abstain: Johnson. Motion passes.

City Administrator Osweiler waived her right to a closed session for her annual review. Mayor Bente gave an overview of the discussion Osweiler and he had for her annual review. Mayor and Council felt that Osweiler has really come into the role of administrator with the City. Goals were set for the year as well as areas for improvement. Mayor Bente and Council thanked Osweiler for her work. Osweiler stated despite the challenges she has faced in the time she has been here, she is happy to be in the position and looks forward to continuing her work with the City. Mayor Bente recommended a 4% increase for Osweiler which would result in an annual salary of \$47,502.00. Evans moved to approve a 4% increase for Osweiler resulting in an annual salary of \$47,502.00. Rowcliffe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Rowcliffe, Johnson, Evans. Nays: None. Abstain: Chapman. Motion passes.

Police Chief Evans waived his right to a closed session for his annual review. Mayor Bente gave an overview of the discussion he had with Evans during his annual review. Mayor Bente stated how much he appreciated Evans ability to navigate budget cuts in recent years while still leading a department with quality full and part-time officers. Mayor Bente also noted how difficult that task is when the budget is as restricted as it has been. Further, Mayor Bente noted Evans continues to make suggestions on how to improve the City in all areas, not just related to the police department. Goals were set for the year as well as areas for improvement. Mayor Bente and Council thanked Chief Evans for all of his work. Mayor Bente recommended a 3% increase for Evans resulting in an annual salary of \$52,960.13. Rowcliffe moved to approve the recommended 3% increase for Evans resulting in an annual salary of

\$52,960.13. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Johnson, Evans, Hansel. Nays: None. Abstain: Chapman.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Bente stated that Osweiler and Chief Evans had been working on a “Step plan” for all of the employees. This plan would outline pay ranges for each position, yearly raises, longevity pay and other details. The plan has many positive aspects including ease of budgeting. Mayor Bente would like to see two Council members work with Chief Evans and Osweiler to work on the step plan. Council members Rowcliffe and Evans both volunteered.

Council discussed the need to review the health stipend given to employees at the upcoming budget meetings. It was identified that the stipend has not been revisited in 5 years. With the increase in healthcare costs and the fact that the stipend is taxed, the resulting dollar amount that the employees received will not even cover a single policy. Council agreed to address this during budget meetings.

The topic of City Hall office hours was reviewed. Osweiler stated that both she and Deputy City Clerk have conveyed to Council how much the reduced hours (open to the public) on Wednesdays help with workload, on-going training and projects. Council agreed that the hours appear to be working and they were okay with continuing the reduced hours on Wednesday. City Hall hours will remain Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm. Wednesday 11:00am to 1:00pm.

Council discussed the need to reschedule budget revenues meeting due to work travel commitments for Mayor Bente. Budget meetings will be as follows: Revenues – January 17th at 5:30 pm. Expenditures – January 23rd at 6:00pm.

With no further business, Evans moved to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. Hansel seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Alison Osweiler, City Clerk/Administrator

Jeff Bente, Mayor