

Strawberry Point City Council  
Regular Meeting January 6, 2021

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers within Strawberry Point City Hall. Mayor Evans presided. Council members answering roll call were Hansel, Courtnage, Rowcliffe, Gould. Gearhart absent.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes from December 16, 2020

Claims

Hansel moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Gould seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Gould, Courtnage, Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passes.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Council discussed reopening the Civic Center, considering facilities that have reopened and the City's ability to maintain a safe environment within the Civic Center. Courtnage moved for the Civic Center to remain closed with the topic being discussed at the first meeting of March. Gould seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Courtnage, Gould, Rowcliffe. Nays: Hansel. Motion passes.

**INFORMATION**

Council reviewed the November 17, 2020, Library Board minutes.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Evans assigned appointments for 2021.

Rowcliffe moved to appoint Nic Stelken as Fire Chief. Gould seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Gould, Hansel, Courtnage. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Rowcliffe moved to appoint Mike Tucker as the Upper Explorerland Rural Housing Authority Representative. Courtnage seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Courtnage, Hansel, Gould. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council discussed the wage scale of the Deputy City Clerk. Gould moved to eliminate the \$2.50 per hour bonus awarded to the Deputy Clerk and increase the hourly pay to the next level of the step plan. Rowcliffe seconded the motion. The City Administrator applauded the Deputy Clerk's service and also made the Council aware of all staff's position on the step plan relative to their tenure, exhibiting disparities. Gould withdrew his motion. After much discussion regarding the matter, Hansel moved to eliminate the \$2.50 per hour bonus awarded to the Deputy Clerk maintaining pay at the current level of the step plan, reviewing all employee wage scales at the next meeting. Courtnage seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Courtnage, Gould. Nays: Rowcliffe. Motion passes.

Council discussed a request to payout or rollover vacation beyond the amount allowed by the Personnel Policy of the City. The Police Department experienced staff shortages reducing availability of coverage to allow for time off. While the Council was hesitant to set a precedence, the hardship was recognized and Gould moved to allow Police Chief Evans and Officer Keppler to roll over 40 and eight hours of vacation, respectively, for up to six months into the calendar year. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gould, Hansel, Rowcliffe, Courtnage. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Moser School of Dance and Gymnastics submitted a request to rent the Civic Center from September 2021 through May 2022. Courtnage moved to renew the lease, increasing the monthly fee to \$125; seconded by Rowcliffe. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Courtnage, Rowcliffe, Hansel, Gould. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed a boring project proposal from Windstream to install fiber in the areas of W Mission Street and Council Street. Such work should not interfere with the City's utilities. Courtnage

moved to approve the project proposal. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Courtnage, Hansel, Rowcliffe, Gould. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Gould moved to approve Resolution #21-01 Approving Fiscal Transfers. Rowcliffe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gould, Rowcliffe, Hansel, Courtnage. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Rowcliffe moved to approve Resolution #21-02 Temporarily Amending the Personnel Policies of the City of Strawberry Point. Courtnage seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Rowcliffe, Courtnage, Hansel, Gould. Nays: None. Motion passes.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Courtnage expressed concern about assigning the Library Board to address structural issues at that facility, as previously discussed at a Budget Work Session. He and other Council members were in agreement the City should manage that process instead of tasking a volunteer board with such a project. Staff and Council members have already made contacts for estimates and direction on the project. Rowcliffe expressed concern about a lack of signage on snowmobile trails; staff will call the representative and request signage. The Public Works Department was also applauded for their recent snow removal efforts.

With there being no other business, Rowcliffe moved to adjourn at 6:47PM. Hansel seconded the motion. All ayes.

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Ashley Jasper, City Administrator

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Hannah Evans, Mayor