

Strawberry Point City Council  
Regular Meeting January 16, 2019

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. inside 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, Hansel.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes from January 2nd

Claims

December 2018 City Financials

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**INFORMATION**

Council had no questions regarding the Strawberry Point Fire Department Minutes from October through December 2018.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Council noted the request to hold the annual tractor pull during Strawberry Days 2019. Rowcliffe made a motion to approve holding the annual tractor pull during Strawberry Days 2019. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Chapman, Johnson, Evans, Hansel, Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Oswailer stated that there had been inquiry from a local business owner whether the city would consider offering a commercial energy rebate for the LED lighting fixtures and bulbs. The city does offer energy rebates to residential customers for various items. Rowcliffe stated that he believed there was something through the county which offers something along these lines. There was question whether other cities with municipality owned electric utilities offered commercial energy rebates. After further discuss, the topic was tabled until the next meeting, to allow city staff and Rowcliffe to conduct more research.

Council heard from the building committee for the new fire station. Working with the architect, four design layouts were reviewed. Ultimately, it was decided to reduce the square footage by 1500 sq ft which dropped the estimated cost. As previously mentioned, the Strawberry Point Firefighters Association is looking to cover the cost of site grading and rock for the building location. One item that they will leave as a possible "add alternate" item on the bid specifications is asphalt. Otherwise this is something that will have to be completed in the future. After further discussion, Council thanked the committee for their update.

Mayor Bente stated we needed to open the public hearing regarding the Urban Renewal Plan. Rowcliffe moved to opened the public hearing on the Amendment to the Urban Renewal Plan for the Strawberry Point Renewal Area. Chapman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Johnson, Evans, Hansel, Rowcliffe, Chapman. Nays: None. Motion passes. Mayor Bente stated that the public hearing is now open. With no public comments received, Rowcliffe moved to close the public hearing. Chapman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Evans, Hansel, Rowcliffe, Chapman, Johnson. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed Resolution 19-02 – A Resolution to declare necessity and establish an Urban Renewal Area, pursuant to Section 403.4 of the Code of Iowa and approve Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for the Strawberry Point Urban Renewal Area. Johnson made a motion to approve Resolution 19-02. Rowcliffe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Rowcliffe, Chapman, Johnson, Evans. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed Resolution 19-03 – A Resolution setting the date for public hearing on proposal to enter into a General Obligation Fire Station Loan Agreement and to borrow money thereunder in a principal amount not to exceed \$750,000. Rowcliffe moved to approve Resolution 19-03. Chapman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Chapman, Johnson, Evans. Nays: None Abstain: Hansel. Motion passes.

Council reviewed Resolution 19-04 – A Resolution to Appoint a Representative and Alternative to the Clayton County E-911 Service Board. Previously approved at the last meeting at Resolution 19-01, it was determined after that Dean Courtnage has been attending these meetings for many years and wished to continue representing the city on this board. Rowcliffe made a motion to appoint Dean Courtnage as the E-911 Service Board Representative and Kaleb Payne as the Alternate Representative. Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Chapman, Johnson, Evans, Hansel, Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the request for the Strawberry Point Ambulance Service to utilize the city's tax id for the purpose of applying for a grant from the Dubuque Racing Association. They are seeking to purchase a new cardiac monitor. Rowcliffe made a motion to approve the request from the Ambulance service to apply for the grant from Dubuque Racing Association. Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Johnson, Evans, Hansel, Rowcliffe, Chapman. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the first reading of Ordinance 19-01 – An Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Strawberry Point, Iowa by amending provisions pertaining to the Park and Recreation Board. The ordinance was drafted after the Park and Recreation Board addressed Council with their concern that the board has been unable to find anyone willing to serve on their board despite various attempts. Most of the current board members will be moving just outside the city limits in the near future and are concerned that the board would lose the momentum that has been gained thus far. Johnson made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 19-01. Evans seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Evans, Rowcliffe, Chapman, Johnson. Nays: Hansel. Motion passes.

Oswelier stated that when Deputy Clerk Jared and herself attending the Iowa League of Cities Conference this past Fall, they learned about GovPayNet, which is a payment service provider. Under the city's current provider, the city covers the cost of approximately \$4,000.00 per year for residents and customers to be able to use their credit and debit cards. So in essence, all residents pay for the service regardless of whether they utilize it. Evans inquired about the number of residents who pay online or via credit card at City Hall vs. paying by other means. Oswelier stated that the majority of residents pay via cash or check and a good number who utilize auto-withdrawal, where the city processes an ACH withdrawal from a bank account. These residents currently using these means of payment would not be affected. The change would affect anyone utilizing the city's current provider to pay online or any person who wanted to use their credit card at City Hall. With the switch in provider, credit cards and debit cards can still be utilized, however instead of the city paying the fee, the customer does. The minimum fee would be \$1.00 or otherwise 2.65%. Oswelier and Jared felt that savings to the City budget was significant enough to present to Council. If implemented, Oswelier suggested not starting until the beginning of the fiscal year – July 2019 to allow time for proper notification. Johnson made a motion to

approve the merchant agreement with Government Payment Services Inc dba GovPayNet. Evans seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Rowcliffe, Chapman, Johnson, Evans. Nays: None. Motion passes.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mayor Bente stated he had been contacted with concerns of ice on streets due to residents' sump pumps depositing water on streets and freezing. While recognizing it was unusually wet this fall and during this early part of winter, Mayor Bente asked that the public works employees continue to keep a close eye and do what they can. Osweiler stated that there are at least 3 problem streets that they are contacted about every year. The city will need to investigate options for changing current rules regarding sump pumps.

Osweiler stated that the Civic Center floors were being repaired this coming weekend. There was significant discussion about the floor epoxy already chipping and felt that the repair needed to include starting from scratch again otherwise it will just continue. Osweiler stated that she would talk with the company to convey all of the concerns raised.

There was a reminder about upcoming budget workshops.

Revenues: Monday, January 21, 2019 at 6:00PM at City Hall

Expenses: Monday, January 28, 2019 at 6:00PM at City Hall

With no further business, Rowcliffe moved to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. Hansel seconded the motion. Motion passes.

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Alison Osweiler, City Clerk/Administrator

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Jeff Bente, Mayor