

Strawberry Point City Council
Regular Meeting February 7, 2018

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 7, 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 Chapman, Johnson, Evans, Hansel, and Rowcliffe.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from January 17th

Liquor License renewal Clayton Drug

Liquor License renewal Nading's Service & Sporting Goods

Mortgage Release for 209 W Spring St.

Claims / Additional Claims

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS
INFORMATION**

Council reviewed the minutes from the Strawberry Point Library Board for the meeting on November 27, 2017. Evans wanted ensure that the Board understood that the library director position is not a salaried position, but hourly, because her position does not meet the Federal guidelines for a salaried position.

Additionally, City Administrator Osweiler, stated that she felt the statement regarding City staff being unable to locate timecards to confirm the benefits available to part time library staff was not accurate. Osweiler had audited all timesheets and provided letters & documentation to both part time library employees to explain the current balances regarding their vacation & sick time available. These were also provided to the library director. Osweiler had not heard anything since providing this in mid-October. Library Director Lincoln stated that the timesheets she was referring to were for earlier, prior to when Osweiler was employed with the City.

Council had no questions regarding the Strawberry Point Fire Department's Minutes from December 13th, December 28th 2017 and January 10th, 2018.

NEW BUSINESS

Council reviewed the Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. Johnson made a motion to approve and accept the Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 as presented. Chapman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Evans, Hansel, Rowcliffe, Chapman, Johnson. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the requests from the Strawberry Point Chamber of Commerce regarding Strawberry Days 2018. Chamber President Hillary Recker and Chamber Vice President Kallie McDowell addressed Council explaining the requests which include the following – 1) Moving the location of Strawberry Days to the Civic Center grounds 2) Use of Civic Center Utilities needed for entertainment, equipment & vendors 3) Use of band shelter at Inger Park for activities on Friday night. 4) Moving the parade time from 1:00pm to 11:00am. After some discussion, Evans made a motion to approve the requests made from the Strawberry Point Chamber of Commerce regarding Strawberry Days 2018. Hansel seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Rowcliffe, Johnson and Evans. Nays: None. Abstain: Chapman. Motion passes.

Ron Thole addressed Council on behalf of the Strawberry Point Little League. They are interested in installing a retractable batting cage inside of the Civic Center. There was concern by some Council in regards to liability, aesthetics and also the City's contractual obligations with businesses that rent the facility. Thole was awarded a grant and hoped to have the cost covered completely by that grant.

After further discussion, Council asked Thole to research cost and other information regarding the project and bring it back to Council. Council also would like Osweiler to talk with the City's insurance regarding liability.

Council reviewed Resolution 18-02 – a resolution to adopt a wage scale for the City's employees. Council reviewed the plan which covers employees of the Police Department, City Hall and Public Works. The wage scale was drafted and then modified after reviewing with Evans and Rowcliffe. The wage scale presents a solution to ensure a fair wage scale which allows employees to better plan their careers, while also aiding the City in the budgeting process. There was much discussion between the Board, City staff present and Citizens. Some Council felt the wage scales in certain departments needed to be more evenly spaced out and there was too much of a jump for example from year 1 to year 2 of employment. After further discussion, Evans made a motion to approve Resolution 18-02 – a resolution to adopt a wage scale for the City's employees. Chapman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Chapman, Johnson, Evans and Hansel. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed Resolution 18-03 – a resolution to specify officer(s) authorized to execute the agreement and documents related to the CAT grant awarded by the Enhance Iowa Board and authorize the execution of the agreement. Evans made a motion to approve Resolution 18-03. Johnson seconded the motion. Ayes: Chapman, Johnson, Evans, Hansel and Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the first reading of Ordinance 18-01 – an ordinance amending the City Code of Strawberry Point, Iowa to raise solid waste collection fees. Council discussed that expenses have been exceeding revenues in this area of the general fund. Rates were last increased in 2015. Rates will be increased \$0.73. Fees would increase 30 days after final passage of the ordinance. Rowcliffe made a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance 18-01 – an ordinance amending the City Code of Strawberry Point, Iowa to raise solid waste collections fees. Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Johnson, Evans, Hansel, Rowcliffe and Chapman. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the first reading of Ordinance 18-02 – an ordinance amending the City Code of Strawberry Point, Iowa to change the base water rate for all water customers. Council discussed that this was another area of the City budget where expenses have been exceeding revenues. Base rates were last increased in 2013. The base rate will increase from \$3.00 to \$3.50 per month. Fees would increase 30 days after final passage of the ordinance. Evans made a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance 18-02 – an ordinance amending the City Code of Strawberry Point, Iowa to change the base water rater for all water customers. Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Evans, Hansel, Rowcliffe, Chapman and Johnson. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the first reading of Ordinance 18-03 – an ordinance amending the City Code of Strawberry Point, Iowa to increase water rates. Usage rates were last increased in 2006. For the first 1000 gallons used the rate will go from \$6.25 to \$6.30. For each additional 1000 gallons used the rate will go from \$2.45 to \$2.50. Fees would increase 30 days after final passage of the ordinance. Evans made a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance 18-03 – an ordinance amending the City Code of Strawberry Point, Iowa to increase water rates. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Rowcliffe, Chapman, Johnson and Evans. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the first reading of Ordinance 18-04 – an ordinance amending the City Code of Strawberry Point, Iowa to change the base sewer rate for all sewer contributors. Council discussed that the increase is at the recommendation of financial advisors who reviewed the sewer rates, as a result of the wastewater treatment project currently underway at the City's south lagoons. The recommendation is to assess the rates every year and implement small increases over time otherwise the City will not be able to make their sewer bond payment in the future. The base rate was last increased in 2015. The base rate will go from \$12.00 to \$12.24. Fees would increase 30 days after final passage of the ordinance. Johnson made a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance 18-04 - an ordinance amending the City Code of Strawberry Point, Iowa to change the base sewer rate for all sewer contributors. Chapman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Chapman, Johnson, Evans and Hansel. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the first reading of Ordinance 18-05 – an ordinance amending the City Code of Strawberry Point, Iowa to increase sewer rates. Usage rates were last increased in 2014. For each 1000 gallons used the rate will go from \$9.55 to \$9.74. Fees would increase 30 days after final passage of the ordinance. Evans made a motion to accept the first reading of Ordinance 18-05 – an ordinance amending the City Code of Strawberry Point, Iowa to increase sewer rates. Rowcliffe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Chapman, Johnson, Evans, Hansel and Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passes.

OTHER BUSINESS

With no further business, Hansel moved to adjourn at 8:23 p.m. Evans seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Alison Osweiler, City Clerk/Administrator

Jeff Bente, Mayor