

Strawberry Point City Council
Regular Meeting February 15, 2017

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 15th, 2017 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, Johnson, Hansel, Kuehl and Evans.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from February 1st

Library Board Minutes from November 15th and December 13th

Fire Department Minutes from January 25th

Liquor License Renewal – Nading’s Service & Sporting Goods

Temporary Liquor License Approval – Rod N Cals (Aquatic Center Gala Event)

Claims/ Additional Claims

Evans moved to approve the consent agenda removing item 6) Fire Department Minutes from January 25th to be voted on separately and approving the additional claims. Kuehl seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Johnson, Hansel, Kuehl, Evans and Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Rowcliffe moved to approve the Fire Department Minutes from January 25th. Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Kuehl, Evans, Rowcliffe, and Johnson. Nays: None Abstain: Hansel. Motion passes.

INFORMATION

City Administrator Osweiler stated the dates for this year’s City Garage Sale and Clean-up Day. The City Garage Sales will be on Saturday, May 6, 2017. The City Wide Clean-up Day is Saturday, May 13, 2017. Further information will follow soon.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Bente gave an overview of the history of the issue with the sewer outlet and lagoons at the North side of the City. Several Board members from Strawberry Point Lutheran Home were present, as well as the Strawberry Point Lutheran Home Administrator, Cheri Leachman. Council Member Kuehl asked the members of the City Public Works team, how often they have to remove clogs of wipes from the system. It was identified that they have to remove wipes on a daily basis. In addition, the City had to hire two different professional teams to jet the sewer lines to clear the lines of wipe build up. After the brief history discussion, the Council and all those present for the meeting were shown photos of the manholes and mains surrounding the Lutheran Home, as well as the significant pile of wipes that have been removed during the month of December. Dennis Happel, a member of the Strawberry Point Lutheran Home Board of Directors, stepped forward to discuss their no wipe policy and his experience with this issue. Mr. Happel inquired about the efforts the City has made to bring the wipe issue to the attention of the other residents of Strawberry Point. To the knowledge of those present, there has been no communication previously on this topic. Ryan Wicks from Fehr-Graham stated that he had spoken with the City Administrator just prior to this meeting regarding some literature he has, which can be shared to all residents. The City agreed to distribute this information to residents using a variety of media (mailing, website, Facebook page, etc). In addition, the City agreed to plan for an additional screen near the Lutheran Home, to try and determine exactly where the issue is originating. Council thanked the members of the Lutheran Home for their willingness to work with the City on this matter and for attending the meeting.

Mayor Bente opened the public hearing regarding the Search Grant Application the City is applying for. This grant will allow the City to commission a stormwater feasibility study. Ryan Wicks from Fehr-Graham spoke on the topic and Katie Meighan from the USDA Midwest Assistance Program

was present to answer questions. Mayor Bente inquired whether the City would be required to implement the design/project plan that would result from the feasibility study. Ms. Meighan stated that the City would not be required to implement project. She also stated that typically the intent in applying for this feasibility study grant is for a project to be completed at some point. Often times, when the outcome of the feasibility study results in a very large project – the project is then broken down into several smaller projects completed over time. The Mayor asked whether there were any additional questions from the public. There being none, the Mayor closed the public hearing for the SEARCH Grant Application. Evans moved to approve resolution 17-01 allowing the City to apply for financial assistance from the USDA, Rural Development via the SEARCH grant application for a stormwater feasibility study. Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Kuhel, Evans, Rowcliffe, Johnson and Hansel. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Ryans Wicks and Katie Meighan discussed the topic of a stormwater utility fee that the City will have to adopt in the future. With the implementation of a stormwater system, there will be maintenance requirements and fees associated with that. A stormwater utility fee would allow the City to offset these costs. These fees would be collected in the same manner that the City currently collects for water, sewer, electric and garbage fees. The Council were presented with general information about how stormwater utilities work. There are several options for these fees including but not limited to flat and variable fees. Council member Evans inquired whether the stormwater utility fee would need to be in place prior to any projects that may be implemented after the feasibility study. Ms. Meighan indicated that there was no requirement but that it would be a good idea to have one implemented before a project start to help with costs.

Mayor Bente brought up the discussion of the Civic Center once again indicating that there is a concern for the liability the City may have if an unsupervised child is injured. There was much discussion on the topic. The topic continues to divide the Council and citizens present. Suggestions such as having volunteers to supervise during appointed hours and installing camera were revisited. At the end of the discussion, City Administrator Osweiler was instructed to contact the City's insurance company to inquire about the City's liability and report back to the Council.

The Council talked about the renewal of the daycare lease with the City. All parties agreed that it was mutually beneficial for the daycare to remain at the Civic Center. The topic of window replacement was revisited. Council member Rowcliffe expressed interest in having the City pursue grants that may be able to help with or cover the cost of renovations such as the window replacement. It was determined that the rental rate (currently \$1000.00 per month) had not been increased in several years. The Council reviewed the utility bills for the Civic Center for 2016 which totaled \$13,580.57. Several Council members suggested various increases to the monthly rental rates. Council member Kuehl made a motion to renew the lease for Berry Tender Daycare and Preschool with a monthly rent of \$1250.00 beginning in January 2018. Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Johnson, Hansel and Kuehl. Nays: None. Abstain: Evans. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the annual appointment of Dean Courtnage as representative for the Clayton County EMA Commission. Evans moved to appoint Dean Courtnage as the City's Clayton County EMA Commission representatives for the year. Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Johnson, Hansel, Kuehl and Evans. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the proposed donation for the City's Aquatic Center Pool Gala. Evans moved to approve the donation of one single pool pass and one family pool pass for auction items at the Aquatic Center Pool Gala. Rowcliffe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Johnson, Hansel, Kuehl, Evans and Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the topic of the City's participation in the DATA – Drug and Alcohol Testing Alliance (DOT Drug Testing pool). The idea behind this pool is mainly for those City employees who are required to possess a CDL license as a requirement of their job. The testing is done quarterly and there are fees associated with participation in this pool, as well as the cost of the tests themselves. There are

currently no City positions that require the employee to have a CDL driver's license. City Administrator Osweiler stated that in her discussion with the nurse from Unity Point, the City could opt to establish their own drug testing pool for City employees and they could test however often the Council decided. It was determined that by removing the City's participation in this program, it would not bar the City from requiring an employee to go for a drug and alcohol test should an employee have an accident during work hours. Rowcliffe made a motion to remove the City's participation in the DATA – Drug and Alcohol Testing Alliance pool currently administered by Unity Point Clinic – Occupational Medicine. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Kuehl, Evans, Rowcliffe and Johnson. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the Fire Department's request for approval in allowing the Strawberry Point Firefighter's Association to apply for 501 (c) (3) status. Council member Johnson asked City Administrator Osweiler if there were any concerns or conflicts with this request. It was determined there were no conflicts, however, the City will have to make sure that equipment and any other items the association wishes to raise funds for are actually purchased by the City. This is due to the fact that the City insures all of the equipment, work comp, etc. The funds raised by the association can then be donated to the City to defray the cost of the purchases. Kuehl moved to approve request by the Strawberry Point Firefighter's Association to apply for 501 (c) (3) status. Rowcliffe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Kuehl, Evans, Rowcliffe and Johnson. Nays: None. Abstain: Hansel. Motion passes.

OTHER BUSINESS

With no further business, Rowcliffe moved to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Alison Osweiler, City Clerk/Administrator

Jeff Bente, Mayor