

Strawberry Point City Council  
Regular Meeting March 21, 2018

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 21, 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.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes from March 7th

Claims / Additional Claims

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS  
INFORMATION**

Council had no questions regarding the Strawberry Point Ambulance Board Minutes from January 9<sup>th</sup> or the Strawberry Point Fire Department minutes from February 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. Council reviewed the delinquent list for February 2018. Osweiler stated that City Staff are researching options for collections. In addition, recent efforts have paid off and we are seeking old debt paid via income offset. City will look to write off some debt closer to the end of this fiscal year.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Sarah Snitker with Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission gave an update on the Status of Funds for the Owner Occupied program she administers. General description of accomplishments to date: To date we have closed out two homes (215 Eder St. and 307 W. Spring St.). One project is currently underway with anticipated completion date by the end of April. One project is being bid out. Total of Four (4) projects anticipated to be completed by the end of summer. Summary of Expenditures to date: See Spreadsheet. General description of remaining work: Work left consists of contractor walk throughs/bid opening, pre-construction conferences and final inspections. General description of changes made to project budget: No changes were made to the budget, targets, schedules, scope, location or objectives.

Council discussed renting an unutilized room at the Civic Center to the Strawberry Point Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of storage. Evans made a motion to rent the room at the Civic Center to the Strawberry Point Chamber of Commerce for \$1.00 per year, with a 90-day written notification by the City should the City need utilize the room. Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Johnson, Evans, Hansel and Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Abstain: Chapman. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the options for the poll open hours for the upcoming May 1<sup>st</sup> Special Election. Johnson made a motion to have the polls open from 7:00am to 8:00pm. Rowcliffe seconded the motion. Johnson rescinded the motion. Johnson made a motion to have the polls open from 7:00am to 8:00pm with the cost of the election being split as follows: 1/3 Ambulance Department, 1/3 Fire Department, 1/3 City Hall. Rowcliffe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Rowcliffe. Nays: Evans, Chapman and Johnson. Motion fails. Evans made a motion to have the polls open from 7:00am to 8:00pm with the cost of the election to be discussed at a later council meeting prior to the election. Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Rowcliffe, Chapman, Johnson and Evans. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Pam Vaske with Smith Insurance addressed the Council. Vaske stated that it had been brought to her attention that there was some confusion as to the rotation of agent which has typically occurred in the past. Typically the role of the agent has rotated every 3 years between two of the insurance agencies in town. In the past, the change of agent of record has occurred in the fall when the Council has been

notified by the agent who is to take over. That notification did not happen in the fall of 2017. As a result, Vaske continued her role as the agent for the City of Strawberry Point. It came to light that another insurance agency in town would like to be part of the agent rotation. Vaske gave an overview of the city's current policy, changes that were made during the course of the previous year and made a recommendation to increase coverage in the area of Cyber solutions/Data Compromise, with an increase in premium from \$590 to \$1,000. Evans made a motion to approve the insurance renewal as presented and approving the premium increase for policy area of Cyber solutions / Data Compromise to \$1,000. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Chapman, Johnson, Evans and Hansel. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Evans made a motion the city rotate insurance agents every four (4) years, starting with coverage year 2019, with the responsibility of notification to reside with the agents. Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Chapman, Johnson, Evans, Hansel and Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the preventative maintenance plan schedule for the electric generation plant. The maintenance will also help to address some of the issues we had last summer and hopefully help to aid in ensuring outages like that do not happen again. Council felt that the preventative maintenance is critical, as the plant is currently operating as it should (most recently evidenced by the successful generation that powered the entire down during the outage that occurred the week of March 5<sup>th</sup>). Hansel made a motion to approve the preventative maintenance plan schedule as presented, removing item 56 as recommended by Dave Cooper with Ziegler. Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Johnson, Evans, Hansel, Rowcliffe, and Chapman. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed a letter from Ambulance Director Theresa Callahan. The Ambulance Department is seeking to apply for a grant from the Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation to cover the cost of a power lift unit for the ambulance. This would prevent possible injury to ambulance staff and a possible work comp claim for the City. The grant match required would be covered by a fundraiser previously approved by the City. It was determined that the Fire Department is interested in applying for the grant as well, but it was unknown what they would be applying for. An ambulance staff person mentioned that the grant has changed their requirements and more than one entity may use the City's Tax ID to apply. It was determined that if that was an issue, the Strawberry Point Firefighter's Association may be able to apply using their own tax ID since they have 501 (c ) 3 status. Evans made a motion to allow both the Strawberry Point Ambulance Department and Strawberry Point Fire Department to apply for the grant from the Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation if they choose. Chapman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Evans, Hansel, Rowcliffe, Chapman and Johnson. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council discussed the recent resignation by Jon Becker of Public Works. Becker's last day will be April 25<sup>th</sup>. Evans made a motion to advertise the public works position with applications due to City Hall by 4:30 pm on Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. Rowcliffe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Rowcliffe, Chapman, Johnson and Evans. Nays: None. Motion passes. Mayor Bente stated he would like the hiring committee to consist of the City Administrator, Hansel and Rowcliffe.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Oswailer stated the City Hall roof leak was being addressed and we are currently waiting on the insurance company. She also confirmed that the interior coating on the ceiling had tested positive for asbestos and will need to be abated.

Council discussed the success of the Civic Center open gym and set a date of June 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss whether to continue with the open gym format through the summer.

Council inquired about the Strawberry Point Lutheran Home sewer situation, Oswailer stated that the daily clean out continues. Further, the Lutheran Home has now refused to pay the City according to the terms outlined in the letter sent last fall. Oswailer stated she would speak with legal to determine options so that Council could decide what the next step will be.

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

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Alison Osweiler, City Clerk/Administrator

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Jeff Bente, Mayor