

Strawberry Point City Council
Special Meeting March 29th, 2017

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a special meeting on Wednesday, March 29th, 2017 at 4:30 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.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

INFORMATION

NEW BUSINESS

Member of the Park and Recreation Board came to discuss a project update regarding the city pool. Currently the estimate from City Hall on the funds the Board has raised for the project totals \$174,500.00. There is additional funding from a variety of sources still due to come in, as well as a significant amount of “in-kind” contributions promised.

The Park and Recreation Board have decided to split the project into two phases – Phase 1) Splash Pad and Phase 2) New Bath House. By splitting the project, this would allow the Board to apply for more grants which may only be available for one phase of the project and not the other.

The Board stated that Phase 1 of the project is estimated to cost \$300,000 – with construction to begin in the fall of 2017 after the pool closes. Phase 2 of the project is estimated to cost \$220,000. The Board is optimistic that constructions for this phase can be completed by fall of 2018. Also, they feel the total for the project would be significantly less than \$220,000 due to the fact that most of the “in-kind” contributions promised are specifically for Phase 2 of the project.

After the initial presentation, there was much discussion between the Board and the Council. A few Council members were concerned about the ability to raise funds by the timeline given. Also, there was concerned voiced regarding the fact that most cities, Strawberry Point included, lose money running their pool every year. However, at the same time, they recognize that this amenity is important for the children and families in the community.

The Board was questioned on their fundraising expectations for the future – specifically whether they anticipated no longer holding the Gala fundraiser. The Mayor indicated that there are other city entities which would like to begin fundraising and there is concern over the City having too many fundraising campaigns running at the same time. The Board indicated that they understand. They currently do not have any plans to discontinue Gala events. Also, the Board indicated that there would be a need for on-going fundraising to help off-set maintenance costs, etc but that these efforts would likely be on a smaller scale than the Gala events.

Council requested the Board return at a later date and provide Council with a timeline and construction phase plan including costs for those phases. They felt this would provide the City with a better idea of the funding needed to complete the entire project. The Board agreed to do so.

There were citizens present who noted that once the project plans are officially adopted, they should reach out to the community once again, citing that citizens may have refrained from donating in the past because the previous pool project presented seemed too large and unobtainable. With the current project presented, people may be more inclined to donate funds to see that it is completed.

OTHER BUSINESS

With no further business, Kuehl moved to adjourn at 5:40 p.m. Evans seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Alison Osweiler, City Clerk/Administrator

Jeff Bente, Mayor