

Strawberry Point City Council
Regular Meeting April 5, 2017

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 5th, 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, Evans, Kuehl, Hansel and Johnson.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from March 14th and March 29th

Claims/ Additional Claims

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Bente proceeded with the third reading of ordinance 17-01 – An ordinance amending the City of Strawberry Point Zoning Ordinances Article II, Section 201 A-1 Special Exception Uses and Structures. Johnson moved to approve the third reading of ordinance 17-01. Rowcliffe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Kuehl, Hansel, Johnson, Rowcliffe and Evans. Nays: None. Motion passes. A full copy of the ordinance is available for view at City Hall.

Council reviewed the proposal previously brought in front of the Council by resident Eldon Fenton. Council reviewed the City code pertaining to sewer and water connections. Council all felt favorably about the potential of new houses. All agreed that they would like to view some sort of plot map or schematic of where the potentials lots would be located, as they felt this would be the only way for the City to determine approximate cost that the city would incur in providing utilities. City Administrator Osweiler said City Hall would contact Mr. Fenton to relay that information.

INFORMATION

Council had no questions regarding any of the board minutes. Council did inquire whether disconnections were allowed now. City Administrator Osweiler confirmed that the winter moratorium was over as of April 1st. We anticipate the delinquent account list to be reduced. Council also inquired about looking into write offs for those accounts that are delinquent and the City has been unable to locate the individual to collect on the arrears.

NEW BUSINESS

Evans moved to go into a closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(c) to discuss strategy with Counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the governmental body in that litigation. Kuehl seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Johnson, Rowcliffe, Hansel, and Kuehl. Nays: None. Motion passes. Council entered closed session at 7:22pm. Council re-entered open session at 7:50pm. No action was taken.

Mayor Bente opened the two Civic Center Cleaning bids that the City received. The first bid opened was from Courtney Keppler for \$85/week, \$100/quarter. The second bid was from Amy Roach for \$80/week, \$110/quarter. Evans made a motion to approve the bid from Amy Roach as submitted, contingent on the proof of insurance being submitted to the City and requiring a 30-day notice from either party to terminate the agreement. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Evans, Kuehl, Hansel, Johnson, Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the renewal of the Sperry Township 28 E agreement for Fire Protection. Rowcliffe moved to approve the Sperry Township 28 E Agreement for Fire Protection. Johnson

seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Kuehl, Johnson, Rowcliffe, and Evans. Nays: None. Abstain: Hansel. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the Library Board request to apply for the Friendship Grant. Librarian Patty Lincoln stated that the grant would provide money to foster inter-generational programming the Library currently provides. Johnson moved to approve the Library Board request to apply for the Friendship Grant. Rowcliffe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Johnson, Rowcliffe, Evans and Kuehl. Nays: None. Motion passes. Mayor Bente thanked the Library Board and Librarian for finding this grant and helping the City look for alternative funding sources.

Mayor Bente indicated that the Park and Recreation Board pulled their request just prior to tonight's meeting. They requested more time to prepare.

Council reviewed the current Housing Incentives offered by the City as part of a program administered by the Economic Development Group. Evans moved to keep the incentives offered by the city the same. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Johnson, Rowcliffe, Evans, Kuehl and Hansel. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the Chamber request to waive the sidewalk restrictions for businesses during the May 6th City Garage Sale Day. Evans moved to approve the request. Kuehl seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Evans, Kuehl, Hansel and Johnson. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the Chamber request to close E. Mission Street from 1:00pm on Friday June, 9th through 7:00pm on Saturday June, 10th for Strawberry Days Street Fair and Carnival and to allow for the use of the City power from the light post. Kuehl moved to approve the request. Evans seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Evans, Kuehl, Hansel, Johnson and Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the Chamber request to approve the parade route for Strawberry Days and to approve the use of the band shelter at Inger Park during Strawberry Days for related events. Johnson moved to approve the requests. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Kuehl, Hansel, Johnson, Rowcliffe, and Evans. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the proof for a new sign to be placed at the Civic Center. Evans stated that a sign placed near the road, rather than on the building itself would be more helpful. City Administrator Osweiler agreed to have the City research more information on the cost of a road sign and any set back requirements due to the proximity to a State Highway. Rowcliffe moved to approve the purchase of a 3' x 4' sign for the Civic Center, proof number one amended to state only "Strawberry Point Civic Center", for the total of \$138.00. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Johnson, Rowcliffe and Kuehl. Nays: Evans. Motion passes.

Council discussed the six month review of the City Administrator. The City Administrator waived her right to go into closed session. Council members Kuehl and Evans both spoke about the process of the review and some of the topics that were discussed. They stated the feedback they have received from the community has been favorable and they believe the new administrator is an asset to the city. Council members Kuehl and Evans recommended a 5% increase. Mayor Bente offered an opportunity for the other Council members to offer their thoughts. Johnson felt the City Administrator has done a wonderful job considering the difficult undertaking. Rowcliffe and Hansel agreed and thanked the City Administrator for her work thus far. Mayor Bente offered City Administrator Osweiler the opportunity to speak. She stated that the past six months has been very difficult but that there are many aspects to the position she loves. She learns new things each day and hopes to continue to do well in the position for the City and to effect positive change where necessary. Johnson moved to approve the review presented including the 5% raise effective immediately. Evans seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Johnson, Rowcliffe, Evans, Kuehl and Hansel. Nays: None. Motion passes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council member Kuehl indicated that he felt the topic of the sewer issue needs to be revisited with the Lutheran Home in town. Mayor Bente agreed that the Council needs to speak with them at the next meeting and present the findings of the Public Works screening process to them prior to the meeting. City Administrator Osweiler will coordinate.

Council Member Kuehl also was interested in speaking with the Economic Development director, Sarah Ferguson about her position and what her position does for the city. Other Council members agreed. It was mentioned that she is due to have a baby any day and that perhaps some of the Economic Development Board might be able to speak on the topic instead.

Council Member Evans thought that in light of the failed Community Meeting regarding the Civic Center on March 27th and that the Civic Center remains locked, she would like to see something mentioned in the paper about the reason for the closure and how a key can still be checked out by adults over the age of 18 at City Hall. City Administrator Osweiler agreed to have something written up.

City Administrator Osweiler stated her interest in attending a conference in May focused on economic development. When she reviewed the conference agenda, she found many topics aimed at small towns in Iowa, government incentives and other related topics that she felt might be beneficial. Council were supportive of her desire to attend.

With no further business, Evans moved to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Rowcliffe seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Alison Osweiler, City Clerk/Administrator

Jeff Bente, Mayor