

Strawberry Point City Council
Regular Meeting April 18, 2018

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 18, 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. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Chapman, Johnson, Evans and Hansel Nays: None. Motion passes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from April 4th
Claims / Additional Claims
City Financials February & March

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

INFORMATION

Council had no questions regarding the Strawberry Point Ambulance Board Minutes from March 13th, Strawberry Point Fire Department Minutes from March 14th and March 28th, 2018 Pool Pricing Information or Park and Recreation Board Minutes from February 2017 – April 2018.

NEW BUSINESS

Council reviewed the request for the Ambulance Department to apply for a grant through Farm Credit Services of America. They are applying for funds to go towards the capital equipment fund for a new ambulance. There is no cost to the City. Rowcliffe made a motion to approve the Ambulance Department's request to apply for a grant through Farm Credit Services of America. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Johnson, Evans, Hansel, Rowcliffe and Chapman. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the topic of paying for the Special Election to be held on May 1st. It was previously proposed that the cost would be split in thirds paid by the Fire Department, Ambulance Department and the City. All departments are in agreement to these terms. Hansel made a motion to split the cost of the upcoming special election equally between the Fires Department, Ambulance Department and the City. Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Evans, Hansel, Rowcliffe, Chapman and Johnson. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed a proposal from the Strawberry Point Lutheran Home. The City has previously decided to assess the cost of cleaning out the manhole at the North lagoon (which requires daily attention by the Public Works Employees) to the Strawberry Point Lutheran Home. These charges began in January 2018. They have refused to pay the charges and believe they are not solely responsible for the issue the City has been dealing with. Pastor Hahn from the Lutheran Home Board presented a proposal in which the Strawberry Point Lutheran Home would offer to pay half of the cost. Another board member, Dennis Happel, stated he believed the city should install a drop basket/trash basket system in the manhole. Happel stated that this would require less attention by public works, instead of the daily cleaning which is being done currently. Happel also mentioned that when the Elkader Street project was being discussed, the board had addressed Council about moving the sewer line from underneath the home. After further discussion, the attention of the Council was brought back to the matter of the proposal by the Strawberry Point Lutheran Home. The subject of changes to the manholes and other solution options for this issue will be tabled. Evans made a motion to accept the proposal by the Strawberry Point Lutheran Home to pay 50% of the cost of the employee hours required to attend to the sewer manhole north of the home. Rowcliffe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Rowcliffe, Chapman, Johnson and Evans. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the prior proposal from a group of Elkader Street residents to forgive the interest on the special assessments for the Elkader Street project. A concerned citizen stated he believed it was wrong if the residents are paying more interest to the city than what the city is paying for interest on the loan it is carrying for the project. After further discussion, the topic was tabled to the next meeting, so more information can be gathered.

The Park and Recreation Board was present to give an update on the splash pool project. It was determined that construction would begin this year, but will not be completed until the fall. They asked the Council move forward with passing resolution 18-10 in order to begin the process for bidding. Rowcliffe made a motion to approve Resolution 18-10 – a resolution approving final plans and specifications for the Strawberry Point Splash Pool project. Evans seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Chapman, Johnson, Evans and Hansel. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Evans made a motion to set the public hearing for the Strawberry Point Splash Pool project on Wednesday, May 16th, 2018 at 7:00 pm. Rowcliffe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Chapman, Johnson, Evans, Hansel and Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the quote for street cleaning. Rowcliffe stated he would like to table the topic to allow time for researching options. Osweiler stated she determined most municipalities in the area handle this “in house” with their own equipment. She also stated that city staff was unable to find another company in the area who does this work in order to obtain another quote. Council agreed to table the topic.

Council reviewed a quote from Imperial Roof Systems Co for the installation of ½” hail protection board on the new roof being installed. Osweiler stated she spoke a representative from the company and they were able to reduce the cost of the original estimate by \$1200.00. Rowcliffe made a motion to approve the quote of \$6000.00 by Imperial Roof Systems Co to furnish and install ½” hail protection board when they install the new roof on top of city hall. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Johnson, Evans, Hansel, Rowcliffe and Chapman. Nays: None. Motion passes.

The hiring committee spoke about their recent interviews with the candidates for the public works operator position. Osweiler stated there were 8 candidates who applied and 4 of those individuals were interviewed. The hiring committee stated their recommendation that the city hire candidate #1 for the position. Rowcliffe stated he believed due to this candidates experience and skill set, the candidate may be able to do work that the city has previously been outsourcing. Hansel stated that she felt the candidate’s experience was applicable to many different aspects of the position. Osweiler added that candidate #1 did have the most relevant job experience out of all candidates interviewed. Rowcliffe made a motion to hire candidate #1 with the starting wage of \$16.50 per hour, in accordance with the city’s wage scale plan (Resolution 18-02). Johnson 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 of Kallie McDowell, the city’s deputy city clerk. Council also reviewed the updated job description prepared by Osweiler. Evans made a motion to approve the updated job description and to advertise for the position of deputy city clerk. Applications for the position are due Friday, May 4th 2018 by 4:30 pm with a recommendation for the hiring committee to be presented at the May 16th 2018 Council meeting. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Rowcliffe, Chapman, Johnson and Evans. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Johnson stated his concern for Osweiler’s workload during this time due to the deputy clerk’s absence. Osweiler stated she was concerned about the workload as well and had considered asking Council to allow her to close City Hall early. She also stated she did not want to inconvenience citizens either. It was determined that hours would remain the same and at the May 2nd Council meeting, for Osweiler to report how things were going and whether help was needed.

Council discussed some changes with the pool staff due to the deputy clerk’s resignation. Osweiler stated she had consulted with McDowell before she left and they agreed that one of the assistant managers was qualified and well suited to move to management. They also agreed on a moving up one of the cashiers to assistant manager. Evans moved to approve the presented pool staff recommendations.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Oswailer stated she wanted to gauge the interest of Council in passing an ordinance which would allow the city to change the utility account from a renter back to the landlord, should the renter become delinquent for two or more consecutive months. Oswailer stated the legality of doing so would need to be researched but did not want to approach legal unless there was interest in doing so. She believed that this may help to ease the burden of the city that has to carry the financial weight of the delinquent utility accounts. Council stated they would be interested in more information regarding this. Oswailer will research and return at a later meeting with more information.

With no further business, Chapman moved to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Hansel seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Alison Oswailer, City Clerk/Administrator

Jeff Bente, Mayor