

Strawberry Point City Council
Regular Meeting May 2, 2018

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 2, 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 18th

Claims

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council reviewed the proposal from a group of residents of Elkader Street. The proposal requested the Council consider forgiving the interest on the special assessments placed on their properties as a result of the Elkader Street project. It was determined that the City's loan has a graduating interest scale, increasing over time. The total interest on the loan is 2.24%. Osweiler stated her research indicated that projects on Elkader St, Westwood and Commercial St all had interest rates of 5% assessed to them. Many residents present felt it was not fair to compare street projects to one another. After much discussion, Rowcliffe made a motion to forgive the interest on the special assessments prior to the date of final decision rendered from the Court of Appeals (January 10, 2018) and an interest rate of 2.75% on the special assessments from the date of final decision rendered from the Court of Appeals going forward. Motion dies due to lack of a second.

Many Council members indicated their concern that by forgiving interest just for the Elkader Street residents would then "open the door" for any resident in the city coming forward asking for the same. After further discussion, Evans made a motion to forgive the interest on the special assessments prior to the date of the final decision rendered from the Court of Appeals (January 10, 2018) and an interest rate of 5% on the special assessments from the date of final decision rendered from the Court of Appeals going forward. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Johnson, Evans, Hansel, Rowcliffe, Chapman. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the topic of street sweeping. In the past we have utilized a service to do so. A recent proposal indicated this year's fee would be \$117.00 per hour. It was determined at a previous council meeting that most municipalities in the area do this "in house" with equipment they own. Council reviewed two quotes for an Edge Model SHB84/ 84" Pick Up/Hopper Broom. Quote 1: K&A Farm Equipment \$6200.00 including freight. Quote 2: Clet Koshatka Farm Equipment \$6495.00 including freight. Hansel made a motion to approve Quote 1 from K & A Farm Equipment for \$6200.00. Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Evans, Hansel, Rowcliffe, Chapman and Johnson. Nays: None. Motion passes.

INFORMATION

Council had no questions regarding the Strawberry Point Park and Recreation Board Minutes from April 23rd, the Strawberry Point Library Board Minutes from March 20th or the Maquoketa River Watershed Management Authority Annual Report.

NEW BUSINESS

Council reviewed the first reading of Ordinance 18-06 – An ordinance amending the City Code of Strawberry Point, Iowa, Section 58.03 to change the number of Ambulance Board members. Ambulance Chairperson Deb Yokiell stated the Board had 3 well qualified candidates willing to serve on the board. With the current code, there would be only room for 1 of the candidates to be appointed. There was discussion that approving the ordinance would result in increasing the quorum number. Yokiell

did not believe this would be a problem. Some Council believed that while it was positive to see that many people willing to sit on the board, historically – the City has often had difficulty filling board vacancies across departments. After further discussion, Rowcliffe moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance 18-06 – An ordinance amending the City Code of Strawberry Point, Iowa Section 58.03 to change the number of Ambulance Board members. Evans seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Rowcliffe, Chapman, Evans. Nays: Johnson. Motion passes. A full copy of the ordinance is available at City Hall.

Council reviewed waiving the Second and Third Readings of Ordinance 18-06 pursuant to Iowa Code 380.3. Rowcliffe made a motion to waive the Second and Third Readings of Ordinance 18-06 pursuant to Iowa Code 380.3. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Chapman, Evans, Hansel. Nays: Johnson. Motion passes.

Ambulance Board Chairperson, Deb Yokiel stated the three recommendations for the Ambulance Board: Amy Horns, Angela Taylor, Chelsey Zitelman – all residents of Strawberry Point. Rowcliffe made a motion to approve the recommended candidates for appointment to the Ambulance Board. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Chapman, Johnson, Evans, Hansel and Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the need for field work/tiling and repairs at the City Farm. It was determined that this will be done in the fall. City will seek to go through the bid process around August 2018.

Council reviewed the rate of pay for contract public works duties while Ommen is on vacation. Mayor Bente spoke with previous public works employee Becker who was willing to do the daily water testing required for \$50.00 per day. Bente also stated that if an emergency call out was necessary Becker's rate would be \$25.00/hour. It was determined this would be in effect for approximately 1 week, while Ommen is on vacation. Rowcliffe made a motion to approve compensating Jon Becker \$50.00 per day for the required City water testing and \$25.00/hour should he be called out for emergency work. Evans seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Johnson, Evans, Hansel, Rowcliffe and Chapman. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed four additional coverage options for the City's insurance, which Council had previously asked agent, Pam Vaske to look into. After review, Evans made a motion to approve the additional coverage for Auto Medical Payments for \$158.00 annually and Workers Compensation for \$48.00 annually. Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Evans, Hansel, Rowcliffe, Chapman and Johnson. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the need to change the date of the July meeting due to the 4th of July holiday falling on a Wednesday. Johnson made a motion to hold the first Council meeting in July on Thursday, July 5th. Evans seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Rowcliffe, Chapman, Johnson and Evans. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Mayor Bente read the 2018 Arbor Day proclamation for the City of Strawberry Point – declaring Saturday, May 5th, 2018 as Arbor Day in the City of Strawberry Point.

OTHER BUSINESS

Osweiler noted that the Strawberry Point Library will be awarded with a grant from Clayton County Foundation for the Future on May 17th at a ceremony to be held at the Franklin Hotel at 5:00pm. Evans stated that Berry Tender Child Care will also be awarded with a grant at the same ceremony.

Alan Wessels updated the Council on the preventative maintenance which was conducted by Ziegler last week, which went very well. There were also additional meters placed on the equipment at the generation plant which will be left on for several weeks to gather data which may be helpful to engineers working on our plant to ensure we do not have future problems in the summer, as we have had in the past.

Council reviewed the possibility for creating a part-time position solely for electrical work – for the benefit of the city from an insurance perspective due to the fact that the city no longer employs full-time linemen for the electric utility. Osweiler will come back with information at the next meeting for the Council to review.

Oswailer stated that she has been able to maintain the function of city hall as best as possible, mostly by coming into work early. She stated that although some days are very hectic, she felt that at this time, she did not need additional help by way of closing city hall early or other means. Oswailer will update Council at the May 16th meeting.

With no further business, Evans moved to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. Hansel seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Alison Oswailer, City Clerk/Administrator

Jeff Bente, Mayor