

Strawberry Point City Council
Regular Meeting May 17, 2017

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 17th, 2017 at 7:08 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, Johnson, Kuehl and Hansel.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from May 10th
Claims/ Additional Claims

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Tom Engelken with Northway Well & Pump reviewed the work that has been done over the past month in pumping and testing the City's South well (well #4). The level of nitrates is still high, but remains lower than the maximum threshold. The City is still waiting on the results from the most recent test. Engelken advised the Council that the most cost-effective next step would be to test the previously capped North well located off of Milwaukee & York. This testing is estimated to cost between \$5,000.00 - \$7500.00. Although costly, the Council agreed that if the City is able to utilize the well, the City would be saving a large amount of money. Rowcliffe moved to test the North well located off of Milwaukee & York. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Johnson, Kuehl, Hansel, Rowcliffe and Evans. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Dean Hendricks the City Affidavit Operator working with Public Works gave an update on this work with the team. Things are going well. He identified that the team started classes for Water Distribution. Hendricks also briefed the Council on his discussion with the Iowa DNR regarding the issue the City has been having with the North Lagoons and the connection with the Lutheran Home. The DNR said the City has the right to handle the situation however it sees fit and to assess the cost to the responsible parties. After further discussion, it was determined that the city administrator would contact the Iowa DNR to be present/mitigate a meeting between the Council and the Strawberry Point Lutheran Home Board.

INFORMATION

Council had no questions regarding the Fire Department Minutes from May 10th.

NEW BUSINESS

Council reviewed the current City Code regarding fireworks. This discussion was brought about by the change made at the State level regarding fireworks. After some discussion and hearing from both Police and Fire Department representatives, the Council saw no reason to amend the ordinance in place, as City code can be more stringent. City code will remain unchanged.

Residents, Nate and Megan Casey came forward asking for temporary access to the City's land at Campbell Park which abuts their property. They are seeking access in order to clean up their property, handle any sewer related issues and allow for the installation of a fence (on their property). Rowcliffe moved to allow the Casey's access to City property for the purposes outlined. Evans seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Rowcliffe, Evans, Johnson and Kuehl. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the second reading of Ordinance 17-03 – An ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Strawberry Point, by amending provisions pertaining to the rates of security lights. Johnson inquired whether there have been any calls regarding this ordinance to City Hall. City Admin Osweiler stated that there has been no contact with City Hall regarding this issue. Johnson moved

to approve the second reading of Ordinance 17-03 – an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Strawberry Point, by amending provisions pertaining to the rates of security lights. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Evans, Johnson, Kuehl and Hansel. Nays: None. Motion passes. Johnson moved to waive the third reading of Ordinance 17-03. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Evans, Johnson, Kuehl, Hansel and Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passes. A copy of Ordinance 17-03 is available at City Hall.

Council reviewed the annual review that took place for Police Officer Taylor, who waived his right to a Closed Session. Chief Ryan Evans informed the Council of the review and highlighted Officer Taylor's recent graduation from the academy along with many accolades he received while in the academy. Chief Evans indicated that the standard increase given in the past, once an officer graduates the academy is \$1.00. However, in this case, his recommendation is for an additional 3% (based on the current wage) due to the fact that his academy graduation coincides with the timing for Officer Taylor's annual review. Total increase recommended would be \$1.51/hour. Council thanked Officer Taylor for his work and congratulated him on his accomplishments. Rowcliffe moved to approve the review and the \$1.51 increase in wage. Kuehl seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Johnson, Hansel, Kuehl, Rowcliffe and Evans. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Chief Evans also took a moment to recognize reserve officer Anderson for all of his work over the past 3.5 years. He requested that an item be added to the agenda in June for Council to review an increase for Anderson's hourly wage.

Council heard from two representatives from the City Fire Department. The Fire Department is in need of new equipment for the safety of its members. Last year, they applied for a grant to cover the cost of this equipment. At the time they applied for the grant, the Fire Department was asked to reduce their request by half and then to apply the following year for the remaining portion. The Fire Department applied for the remaining portion and it has been determined that they will not be receiving the grant funds. The remaining portion needed to cover the cost of new equipment is \$32,000.00. It was determined that this expense would occur in next fiscal year. Council member Kuehl indicated he did not want to be adversarial but he asked about what funds were available to cover the cost of this equipment. It was determined that the Fire Department has approximately \$11,300.00 in their T & A account. The Fire Department earmarked funds in next fiscal year's budget which could be utilized. City Administrator Osweiler indicated that they are approximately \$20,000 under their budget for this current fiscal year. However, this will be less due to quarterly payroll expenses to come out at the end of June. It was determined there are other funds available in banking accounts retained by the Fire Department and/or Fire Association – but of these available funds, one of the representatives indicated that they are unwilling to use the money towards equipment because the funds are going to be used towards a new Fire/EMS building they are hoping to build. Council members Evans and Johnson indicated they were not comfortable making a decision until they had the opportunity to review current fiscal year and next fiscal year numbers. After further discussion, it was determined that this item would be tabled until next Council meeting so that financials could be reviewed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dean Courtnage requested the City post on their Facebook page and have a notice printed in the paper that the Fire Department will be conducting a test of the emergency sirens in town on Wednesday, May 24th from 6:00 to 6:30 pm.

Council members Rowcliffe and Hansel inquired about spraying the field at the ball diamond for weeds and whether this was being addressed. City Administrator Osweiler indicated that she had spoken with the Park and Recreation Board President and believed that the situation was already being addressed. A vendor to handle the spraying had already been contacted. Hansel felt that the Park and Recreation Board needed to increase their efforts at areas other than the city pool.

With no further business, Kuehl moved to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Hansel seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Alison Osweiler, City Clerk/Administrator

Jeff Bente, Mayor