

Strawberry Point City Council
Regular Meeting July 18, 2018

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at 7:03 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 and Hansel. Absent: Evans

Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Chapman, Johnson, Hansel Nays: None. Motion passes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from July 5th

Claims

June 2018 City Financials

Rowcliffe made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the additional of the June 2018 City Financials to the consent agenda. Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Chapman, Johnson, Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Abstain: Hansel. Motion passes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council spoke with Peter Schulte, Director of the Strawberry Point Economic Development Fund. Council was not interested in the grant opportunity with the City being the owner. The City would discuss partnering with the property owner in the future, should the owner choose to pursue the grant funding for the rehabilitation of the building.

INFORMATION

Council had no questions regarding the Strawberry Point Park and Recreation Board Minutes from July 2nd, 2018.

NEW BUSINESS

Citizen Theresa Breitbach addressed Council regarding a request to re-instate adding fluoride to the City's drinking water. After providing a summary of the history of use/discontinuation of use in Strawberry Point, Breitbach provided a variety of facts regarding fluoride and the benefits for oral health. Breitbach requested in closing that the Council review the available information, ask for public input and ultimately re-instate water fluoridation. She also stated that her husband, State Senator Mike Breitbach would be willing to write letter of support should the City seek to apply for the grant available from Delta Dental. Jacquie Zwack, an Oral Hygiene and I-Smile Coordinator through the Visiting Nurse Association of Dubuque addressed Council regarding her role within Clayton County and her 8 County territory. Zwack encouraged Council to re-instate water fluoridation for the good of the public health. Johnson and Rowcliffe voiced concerns regarding negative effects of water fluoridation. Further discussion is necessary. Council requested Public Works conduct a fluoride test for our town to determine what the current naturally occurring levels are. The topic will again be discussed and possible action taken at a meeting in August.

Council discussed the topic of hiring a part-time electric utility manager. The job description for this position was reviewed and approved at the Council meeting on the May 16, 2018 Council meeting. Dan Stelpflug from Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative was present to answer questions. It was determined that there are no specific certifications that need to be obtained prior to operating a generation plant. Stelpflug further advised against hiring a "lineman" because their skillset does not necessarily translate to a generation plant. It would also not be cost effective for the City to do so with the amount of line we have in town. Stelpflug also stated that the Electric Cooperative is very confident with the abilities of Alan Wessels, should there be a position created and Wessels applies. Osweiler stated that the position encompasses duties regarding the electric utility as a whole, not just the generation plant. Further, Osweiler wanted to ensure the Council understands that any work involving high voltage is handled by Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative; the City works with them as necessary. After further discussion, Johnson made a motion to advertise for the part-time electric utility manager position. Applications are due to City Hall by 3:00PM on August 3rd, 2018. Rowcliffe seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Johnson, Hansel, Rowcliffe and Chapman. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council discussed two topics regarding the electric utility which were requested by Strawberry Food & Deli owner, Gary McElroy. The first topic was regarding the role of the Electrical Study Committee. Mayor, Bente, Osweiler and a few Council members had all spoken with McElroy at different times prior to the meeting. McElroy took issue with the fact that the committee had not met in over a year. Osweiler stated that her research indicated that the committee met at varying intervals over the years. Osweiler also stated from what she could gather from documents available, the formation of the committee was not to oversee the day-to-day operations of the electric utility. Alan Wessels, a long time member of the Electric Study Committee stated that the committee has only ever been involved in researching and making a recommendation to the Council as to which company the City should buy electricity from. After further discussion, Council saw no evidence to change the role of the Electric Study Committee.

The next topic regarding the electric utility requested by McElroy was regarding establishing a protocol when the city loses power. Dave Nading, owner of Nading's Service and Sporting brought up this topic earlier in the meeting, he stated that as a business owner, it is very frustrating not having a point of contact to call for information. JR Willis, Manager of Strawberry Food & Deli stated he agreed, particularly since he is new to this position and has only recently been instructed as to what to do in the event of a power outage at the store. Citizen, Theresa Breitbach suggested that perhaps the City could take this opportunity to host an educational workshop for business owners in town. Council and several meeting attendees present agreed this should be done. Osweiler stated that City Staff will also find literature that would help educate residents of what to do in the event of a power outage that may help to save electrical appliances, etc.

Council discussed the requirements of the City regarding Council Agendas. Osweiler stated that per Iowa Code regarding public notice of meetings, publication is NOT required however, posting is required. Currently, the City posts agendas in front of City Hall, at the post office and on the website. Osweiler suggested that the potential savings in the General Fund (which the City is still watching closely) is significant enough to warrant no publication. Also, the agenda is often inaccurate when published as changes occur after the file is sent to the paper due to publication deadlines. Minutes, claims information and other required items will continue to be published in the paper. Osweiler suggested adding additional posting areas for the public such as the library and the City's Facebook page. Osweiler also stated that the agenda is always available for citizens at City Hall. Hansel suggested having a special note in the paper regarding the change.

Council reviewed the cost associated with sending the City Administrator and the Deputy City Clerk to the Iowa League of Cities Conference. \$205.00 per attendee if registered by August 6, 2018. Hansel made a motion to approve the attendance of both the City Administrator and Deputy City Clerk to the Iowa League of Cities Conference taking place September 12th – 14th. Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Rowcliffe, Chapman and Johnson. Nays: None. Motion passes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Osweiler reminded Council of the final installment of the new software system covering utility billing. City Hall will be closed from Monday, July 30th through Wednesday, August 1st.

Osweiler also mentioned to Council about the GrantFinder database that is now available to the City through the Iowa League of Cities. All City entities have access to this database and we hope it will help fund the needs of our community.

Hansel stated she wanted to make sure we put the topic of purchasing fuel for the generation plant on a future agenda, as soon as we have the new fuel gauge installed. Also, a few areas she felt needed the attention of Public Works included spraying for weeds in the streets and parks, ensuring trees overhanging on the streets are properly trimmed for traffic and so signage is not covered. Also, she would like to see some more street sweeping done.

Danielle West, Park and Recreation Board President, noted to Council that it was recently suggested the City obtain a service easement down in the area where the new splash pool is being

installed. Osweiler stated she would speak with the City Attorney regarding this and what may be required.

With no further business, Rowcliffe moved to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Alison Osweiler, City Clerk/Administrator

Jeff Bente, Mayor