

Strawberry Point City Council
Regular Meeting September 6, 2017

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 6, 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 and Hansel. Absent: Johnson.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from August 16th

Claims

Additional Claims

Kuehl inquired on the additional claims list, whether the city had recently replaced a toilet at the museum. City Administrator Osweiler stated that the invoice was dated in August 2017, however supplemental paperwork submitted with the bill was dated for March 2016. The City discussed with the Museum Director, Diane Formo. Formo informed the City that a toilet was in fact replaced in or around March 2016. She stated that she had been told that it was a donation to the museum but had no paperwork to support that. Osweiler stated that moving forward the City will obtain documentation of all donations. Hansel stated a concern regarding paying an invoice over a year after the fact would set a precedent. Council agreed; however felt the bill would need to be paid in this case. Evans inquired about the lifeguard reimbursements included on the additional claims list. Osweiler stated these are reimbursements for the lifeguards' swimsuits and the cost of training prior to the start of the season. Kuehl inquired about the payments for the "jaws of life". Osweiler stated that these were covered by an insurance claim. Rowcliffe moved to approve the consent agenda with the additional claims. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Evans, Kuehl, Hansel and Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council heard from Library Board Member, Jason Martin-Hiner regarding the overages in spending during the 16-17 Fiscal Year, which ended June 30, 2017. Martin-Hiner discussed what the Board and Library Staff have done to mitigate costs both things within their control and outside of their control (such as utility costs). Evans & the Council thanked Martin-Hiner for his presentation and believed it to be very thorough. There was discussion on the Library Board's decision to reduce library open hours as of September 1st. The Mayor felt that the announcement of the new hours on Facebook was misleading to the citizens/patrons of the library regarding the reason for the reduced hours. All of the Council agreed that the reduction in hours was not necessary and ill-advised. Some Council members felt that the library should be open for 40 hours if there is a staff member being paid for 40 hours. Other Council stated that they would like to see the library hours to return to what they had been. The Council again, strongly encouraged the Board to expand the library hours. There was discussion on whether the Library Board's Budget should be reduced in an effort to "repay" the City for overages in spending that we within the control of the library staff and Board. The Council emphasized that budget overages cannot happen again. They also encouraged the Board to come to the Council if they felt that an overage might occur. The Council would like to work with the Library as much as possible to ensure success for everyone. Council noted how important the library is to the community. Council Member Kuehl stated he would very much like to see the Library and the Council work on building a good relationship with one another. Kuehl also noted that he would also be interested in seeing library budgets from comparable size libraries in an effort to ensure that the City is providing the library with a realistic budget to work with.

INFORMATION

Council had no questions regarding the Strawberry Point Ambulance Board Meeting Minutes from August 17th or the Library Board Meeting Minutes from July 18th.

NEW BUSINESS

Members of the Park and Recreation Board were present to request permission from the Council to apply for the Black Hills Corp Community Giving Grant. The Board plans to apply for \$4,000.00. There is no City match required. Kuehl made a motion to allow the Park and Recreation Board to apply for the Black Hills Corp Community Giving Grant. Evans seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Kuehl, Hansel, Rowcliffe and Evans. Nays: None. Motion passes.

City Administrator Osweiler informed the Council that the City had been approached regarding the ball field. A group of volunteers would like to apply lime in the area around the batting cages. All materials and work would be done with no cost to the City. Evans made a motion to approve for the lime application to take place. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Rowcliffe, Evans and Kuehl. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Osweiler stated that the quote for the sidewalk addition had previously been reviewed. However, a resident who lives near the area in question has had her home damaged twice from rocks and golf balls that have been thrown from the mower. Council had the opportunity to review a letter from this resident. Evans said it was encouraging that some alternative ideas to paving were brought forth in the letter. Council agreed to have landscaping quotes brought forth at a future meeting to review.

Mayor Bente stated that he had been in contact with Dean Courtnage, the Emergency Services Contact person for the town. Courtnage had asked to table the conversation so he could research and possibly bring back lower quotes for a siren replacement.

Council reviewed a quote for sewer jetting. Public Works proposal was to jet the entire City and create a maintenance schedule where 1/3 of the town would be done each year. There was discussion as to what the cause of the sewer line clogs were. It was agreed that water use, soap & detergent use also plays a part. It was agreed that the City would distribute information to residents. Kuehl made a motion to jet the entire city's sewer lines at the cost of \$0.75 per foot. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Evans, Kuehl, Hansel and Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the proposed municipal infractions to be adopted by the City. Council agreed the next step would be to have the infractions reviewed by the City Attorney. Council will have the opportunity to vote when the ordinance is presented at future meetings.

Council reviewed current hours for City Hall. It was determined that these hours would continue but change back to old hours as of January 1, 2018. Rowcliffe wanted to ensure we stated our current hours through the end of the year. City Hall hours until December 31, 2017 are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:00am – 4:30pm. Wednesdays 11:00am – 1:00pm.

Jon Becker requested the Council go into a closed session. Evans made a motion to go into a closed session pursuant to Iowa Code 21.5(i) to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Hansel seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Evans, Kuehl, Hansel and Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passes. Council entered closed session at 8:35pm. Council re-entered regular session at 9:16pm. Evans made a motion to issue a split raise for Becker, \$0.50/hour increase immediately and \$0.50 additional increase when Becker completes and passes his Water Distribution Grade 1 exam. Immediate increase would result in \$19.25/hr and \$19.75/hr after Water Distribution Grade 1 certification. Kuehl seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Evans and Kuehl. Nays: Hansel and Rowcliffe. Motion fails. Rowcliffe made a motion to issue a split raise for Becker, \$1.00/hour increase immediately and a \$0.50 additional increase when Becker completes and passes his Water Distribution Grade 1 exam. Immediate increase would result in \$19.75/hr and \$20.25/hr after Water Distribution Grade 1 certification. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Hansel and Kuehl. Nays: Evans. Motion passes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Evans would like to see the Civic Center brought up for discussion at a future meeting.

With no further business, Evans moved to adjourn at 9:23 p.m. Kuehl seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Alison Osweiler, City Clerk/Administrator

Jeff Bente, Mayor