

Strawberry Point City Council
Regular Meeting September 10, 2018

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Monday, September 10, 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. 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 August 15th

Claims

Evans made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Chapman 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 Ambulance Board Meeting Minutes from July 20th or the Strawberry Point Public Library Board Meeting Minutes from July 24th.

NEW BUSINESS

Council reviewed two probable opinion of cost from engineering firms regarding the construction and implementation of well house #5. Many Council members felt that the numbers given for the cost of a well house construction was far too high. After further discussion, City Administrator Osweiler stated that she would contact Northway Well & Pump to schedule televising of the well to determine if the well casing is still in good condition as the results could significantly change the scope/cost of the project. This would allow time to research further whether there is a more cost-effective option for the construction of the well house should the well casing be in good condition.

Council reviewed the request from the Strawberry Point Little League group to construct a shelter behind home place at the old ball diamond. The project would be entirely grant funded and at no cost to the city. Rowcliffe made a motion to approve the request to build a shelter behind home plate at the old ball diamond with the stipulation that the group contact the Tree Board if the project will negatively impact the trees in the area. Johnson 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 resuming the addition of fluoride to the city's drinking water. State laboratory results came back that the naturally occurring level of fluoride in the city's drinking water is 0.15mg/L. Citizen Deb Yokiel addressed Council with her research on fluoride and the negative effects and asked that the Council decide to not add fluoride to the water. Citizen Theresa Breitbach addressed Council requesting they add fluoride to the drinking water, citing she had provided several reputable sources for information on fluoride and the benefits. She also reminded Council of the support of the local doctors who serve this community. Osweiler stated that if the Council decided to add fluoride again, the city would need to purchase new supplies for the well houses to store & pump the fluoride. Council said they were interested in seeing what that would cost the city. Evans also stated she would like to see a poll put on Facebook and perhaps the website too. Osweiler stated the city staff would do this right away and return with information at next week's Council meeting. Mayor Bente encouraged all the Council members to get out and talk to citizens about the issue.

Public Works employees addressed Council regarding the street sweeper attachment. They explained that the attachment is not working as hoped and the reasons for that. Hansel wondered whether talking with the business where it was purchased would help, to ensure its being used properly. Both employees felt that it was being used properly and reiterated that it was more of an issue of the attachment being intended for use on smaller projects. After further discussion Council felt that the city would not get its money back if the attachment was sold. There was discussion on areas or jobs where the city could still utilize the attachment, perhaps the city could reduce outsourcing street sweeping to once a year.

Hansel stated she had been contacted by several people regarding the status of the streets and wondered whether the city should attempt to contact the company to see if the city streets can still be swept this fall. Osweiler stated she would contact the company to see if arrangements could be made.

Council discussed setting a date for trick or treating this year. Council noted October 31st is on a Wednesday this year. Chapman stated his concern that it might be an issue for some families as Wednesday is often considered a “church night”. After further discussion, Evans made a motion to set trick or treating this year for Wednesday, October 31, 2018 from 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Evans, Hansel, Rowcliffe, Chapman and Johnson. Nays: None. Motion passes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Citizen Deb Yokiell stated she was speaking on behalf of several of the churches in town regarding the Community Meal which is held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The meal is held at St. Mary’s Catholic Church and is for all the community, not just the poor. Yokiell encouraged the Council to be more involved with the meal.

Johnson and Chapman raised issues regarding the library building, brickwork issues and leaking at windows and other locations. Osweiler stated Public Works have already started to address some of the issue but larger fixes might be necessary and is an ongoing concern. Anything requiring Council approval or insight will be brought to Council.

With no further business, Evans moved to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Alison Osweiler, City Clerk/Administrator

Jeff Bente, Mayor