

Strawberry Point City Council
Regular Meeting September 20, 2017

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 20, 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, Johnson, Kuehl and Hansel.

Evans made a motion 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 September 6th

Claims

Additional Claims

Kuehl stated there was an error on the September 6th minutes. The last sentence of the Unfinished Business section should state “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.” 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 and Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Abstain: Hansel. Motion passes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

INFORMATION

Council inquired about the “Final” accounts on the July/August Delinquent list. City Administrator Osweiler stated that there have been a large number of accounts closed – people either moving from or moving to another residence within the City. City Hall staff will be looking at writing off the oldest accounts when the appropriate time arises. They will also pursue trying to re-coup some of the money for certain accounts via income offset, if possible. Council had no questions on the Strawberry Point Park and Recreation Board minutes from August 28th.

NEW BUSINESS

Council reviewed the 2017 City Street Financial Report and the associated Resolution 17-09 approving the report. Evans made a motion to approve Resolution 17-09, a resolution approving the 2017 City Street Financial Report. Kuehl seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Johnson, Kuehl, Hansel, Rowcliffe and Evans. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed a document from Vision Service Plan, the provider of the City’s employee vision benefits. The rates would increase by \$0.42 for a single employee rate (which is the only cost covered by the City). Evans made a motion to approve the renewal of the City’s contract with Vision Service Plan. Hansel seconded the motion. Ayes: Kuehl, Hansel, Rowcliffe, Evans and Johnson. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council heard from Heather Klingman from the Berry Tender Child Care Board. Klingman stated that the board was interested in putting a sign up on the Civic Center building to indicate where Berry Tender is located. Klingman previously consulted with City Hall staff to determine if there were any legal issues. Osweiler stated that the city attorney indicated that placing a sign on a city owned building would not be an issue. Council and Klingman discussed placement of the sign. Kuehl made a motion to allow Berry Tender Child Care to place a sign on the Civic Center building. Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Rowcliffe, Johnson and Kuehl. Nays: None. Abstain: Evans. Motion passes.

Council reviewed four requests from the Strawberry Point Chamber of Commerce. Request 1) Host annual pumpkin walk activities at the fire station. Request 2) 2017 Veterans Days parade & celebration. Request 3) Strawberry Days 2018, June 8th, 9th, 10th. Request 4) Creation of a portable, vertical strawberry patch would be moved to location for easy community view to promote Strawberry Days. Evans moved to approve the requests from the Strawberry Point Chamber of Commerce. Johnson

seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Evans, Johnson, Kuehl and Hansel. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council heard from the Strawberry Point Ambulance Board. They addressed the Council regarding the status of their T & A and Capital Equipment account, as well as their upcoming need for a new ambulance. For the past few years, the usual transfer of funds to the ambulance T & A account has not occurred due to the ending balance of the General Fund. The Board identified that they are a self-sustaining department and come in consistently under budget. While they understand the issue the City is currently facing with the General Fund, they are asking the Council for additional consideration for their T & A account. There was much discussion on how this might be possible, such as a monthly deposit to the account rather than waiting until the end of the year to make the transfer. Ultimately the Council requested the City Administrator and the Council liaison to the Ambulance Board meet with the Board to discuss some options and come back to the Council by the November 1st Council meeting.

Council heard from a representative from the Strawberry Point Firefighters Association. They discussed the desire to build a new fire station in town and the means to build the fire station. The Association estimates the proposed building would cost approximately \$800,000.00. In their proposal, the land, which is currently owned by the City, would be sold to the Association. The Association would secure a \$500,000.00 loan. The remaining funds would be secured through fundraising efforts held by the Association. The building, once complete, would be leased by the City. The lease payment from the City would in essence cover the loan payment for the Association. The Association proposes that there be an initiative placed on an upcoming ballot (their preference would be a Special Election in March 2018) to change how the LOST funds are allocated. Current allocation of LOST funds, or Local Option Sales Tax funds, is 33 1/3% goes towards Economic Development office of the Strawberry Point Development Fund, including but not limited to salary and benefits. The remaining 66 2/3% is retained by the City for repairs, maintenance and/or improvements to streets, sewer systems, and/or water system; and/or general obligation debt. The current allocation was on the ballot in 2005 and passed by a majority vote. What the Association is proposing would change the 33 1/3% allocation from Economic Development to service the loan for the new Fire Station. After further discussion, some Council felt that they did not have enough evidence that changing the LOST funds allocation would be in the best interest of the City. A citizen present mentioned that all citizens need to understand what they would be giving up (money funding an economic development director position) if they voted to re-allocate the LOST funds. Council suggested that the Association hold a community meeting to make citizens aware of what the Association's intentions are with the building and a possible ballot initiative. Council also expressed interest in having the City Administrator work with the City Attorney and Bond Counsel to determine the implications for the City in entering into this type of lease agreement. The topic will be revisited at a later date.

OTHER BUSINESS

City Administrator Osweiler discussed that she had been contacted earlier in the day regarding a cost estimate for work needed on the switch gear at the City's generation plant. Council agreed to review and vote at the next meeting.

The City had also been approached by the Clayton County Emergency Management Coordinator, Sarah Moser to update information regarding the location of an emergency shelter should the need arise. Council stated that the Civic Center and the basement City Hall have always been the designated places in the past.

With no further business, Rowcliffe moved to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Evans seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Alison Osweiler, City Clerk/Administrator

Jeff Bente, Mayor