

Strawberry Point City Council  
Regular Meeting January 19, 2022

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers within Strawberry Point City Hall. Mayor Evans presided. Council members answering roll call were Hansel, Gearhart, and Gould, with Courtnage participating via speakerphone. Yokiel absent.

Hansel moved to approve the agenda as presented. Gearhart seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Courtnage, Gearhart, Gould. Nays: None. Motion passes.

### **PRESENTATIONS/GUESTS**

Regarding the Downtown Housing Grant Application, Mark Meyer submitted comments explaining his decision to delay the project, citing cost of materials and supply chain concerns as reasons why the project is not feasible at this time. Given the investment Meyer has already made in his planning efforts, his commitment to the project continues with plans to apply when the program reopens.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes from January 5, 2022, City Council Meeting

Minutes from January 10, 2022, City Council Budget Work Session

Claims

Courtnage moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Gould seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Courtnage, Gearhart, Gould. Nays: None. Hansel abstained due to conflict of interest. Motion passes.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **INFORMATION**

The Ambulance Board minutes of January 11, 2022, and the December 2021 Delinquent Account List were received and filed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Council acknowledged the Ambulance Board's action to appoint Jeremiah Owens permanently as the Ambulance Service Director, and also to appoint Tony Cripe permanently as the Ambulance Administrative & Billing Specialist. Hansel moved to reappoint Becker, Horns, and Taylor to additional three year terms on the Ambulance Board. Gould seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gearhart, Gould, Hansel, Courtnage. Nays: None. Motion passes. The Council also acknowledged the Board's appointment of officers, including Taylor as President, Horns as Vice President, and Pope as Secretary.

Utility Manager Alan Wessels explained the need for routine maintenance on the electric utility and generation plant. The City's current contract with Cummins does not address certain inspections, adjustments, and testing, although the City can add these services as needed through Ziegler for a lower overall cost than contracting the entire service agreement with Ziegler. Courtnage moved to approve Ziegler Proposal No. AFS22-004 in conjunction with AFS22-005 to reduce travel charges, as well as megohmmeter winding test, valve adjustment and inspection, switchgear inspection and test, circuit breaker maintenance, and switchgear microprocessor based testing. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gould, Hansel, Courtnage, Gearhart. Nays: None. Motion passes.

The City's current credit card processor, Payment Services Network (PSN), is increasing user fees for residents and adding monthly charges for the City. After researching providers of this service and their fees and capabilities, City Administrator/Clerk Ashley Jasper also offered Forte Payment System as an alternative, with a monthly fee similar to what is currently charged and no monthly fees to the City. Council reviewed a summary of service fees and offerings from both companies. Gearhart moved to

utilize Forte as the City's credit card processor. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Courtnage, Gearhart, Gould. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Gearhart moved to approve Resolution #22-01 Approving Fee Schedule as presented. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gearhart, Gould, Hansel. Nays: Courtnage. Motion passes.

Hansel moved to approve Resolution #22-02 Setting Date of Public Hearing for the FY2022-2023 Maximum Property Tax Levy. Gould seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gearhart, Gould, Hansel, Courtnage. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Courtnage moved to approve Resolution #22-03 Approving Iowa Economic Development Authority Non-Entitlement Community Development Block Grant (COVID-19) Program Contract. Gould seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gould, Hansel, Courtnage, Gearhart.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Gearhart mentioned the Economic Development Club is working with the Maquoketa River Watershed Management Authority and University of Iowa artists to design and paint a mural in town this summer. Courtnage requested research into infrastructure grants for housing developments. Gould mentioned certain property owners maybe requesting exemption from the new snow removal ordinance.

With there being no other business, Hansel moved to adjourn at 6:34PM. Gearhart seconded the motion. All ayes.

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Ashley Jasper, City Administrator

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Hannah Evans, Mayor