

Strawberry Point City Council
Regular Meeting August 4, 2021

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers within Strawberry Point City Hall. Mayor Evans presided. Council members answering roll call were Hansel, Courtnage, Gearhart, Rowcliffe; Gould participated via speakerphone.

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

PRESENTATIONS/GUESTS

Gary Benda, Superintendent of Starmont and West Central schools, introduced himself to the City Council. Benda explained the school district's need for at least three more bus drivers for the school year, and summarized the requirements of the districts' ESSER III funding. Benda provided informational flyers for the funding, as well as school calendars, which will be available to the public at City Hall.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from July 21, 2021 City Council Meeting

Claims

Tobacco Permit Renewal for D & J Mart LLC/Strawberry Foods

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The City Council discussed terms of a long-term lease agreement with members of the Berry Tender Child Care (BTCC) Board of Directors in attendance at the meeting. Discussions centered around a 10-15 year lease, with both parties acknowledging the need for increased rent if improvements are expected to be made to the facility. In addition to the HVAC and acoustic improvements to the Civic Center portion of the building, other improvements were also reviewed to be considered at a later date: tuckpointing, windows, plumbing upgrades, insulation, roofing, bathroom fixtures, etc. Gearhart and Hansel expressed concern over investing public funds into a facility that needs extensive repairs and upgrades, and is largely used by a private organization. BTCC stated there are no feasible options for them to relocate if improvements to the Civic Center are not made. BTCC representatives were clear in their desire to work with the City and the Library in an effort to seek a satisfactory solution for all parties; the Council was equally supportive of their mission and the service they provide to the community. Gould moved to prepare a lease agreement for BTCC Board of Director Review under the following terms: 10 years, commencing July 2022, with an annual increase in rent of \$50 per month every year for the life of the lease. Courtnage seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Courtnage, Rowcliffe, Gould. Nays: Gearhart, Hansel. Motion passes.

Discussion and action on the remaining items pertaining to the Civic Center and Library Projects was tabled pending a decision from the BTCC Board of Directors on the proposed lease terms.

INFORMATION

The Library Board Minutes of June 21, 2021 were received and filed.

The Ambulance Board minutes of July 13, 2021 were received and filed.

NEW BUSINESS

Courtnage moved to approve the Library Board Member appointments and terms as presented, pending advertisement of the vacancies to solicit interest from the community. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gearhart, Rowcliffe, Hansel, Gould, Courtnage. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Courtnage moved to approve the City Shop tool purchase as recommended. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Hansel, Gould, Courtnage, Gearhart. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Courtnage moved to approve the Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative estimate for utility pole replacement in the amount of \$8,289.91. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hansel, Gould, Courtnage, Gearhart, Rowcliffe. Nays: None. Motion passes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Evans expressed concern over weeds and vegetation growth in the parking lot and sidewalk area around the grocery store. Sergeant Owens and Officer Keppler provided an update of the traffic cameras stating citations started being issued on August 1, but are held in a queue until staff is properly trained on the system. Courtnage requested consideration of improvements to the tennis courts in the future fiscal year, giving consideration to turning them into pickleball courts. City Administrator/Clerk Ashley Jasper thanked Council for the opportunity to attend the Iowa Municipal Professionals Academy the previous week and will prepare a written summary for Council review.

CLOSED SESSION

Gearhart moved to enter closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(j) to discuss the purchase or sale of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property or reduce the price the governmental body would receive for that property. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gould, Courtnage, Gearhart, Rowcliffe, Hansel. Motion passes. Courtnage moved to resume open session. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Courtnage, Gearhart, Rowcliffe, Hansel, Gould. Motion passes. Gearhart moved to proceed with the potential sale of the property located at 211 W Spring Street, with the buyer paying the City's legal fees and updating the abstract at their own expense, with a house to be constructed on the property within two years of closing. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gearhart, Rowcliffe, Hansel, Gould, Courtnage. Motion passes.

TOUR

Mayor Evans called a recess at 7:02PM, at which time Gould disconnected from the meeting. Per the Agenda, the meeting resumed at the Police and Ambulance Garage located at 111 Commercial Street for a tour. Mayor Evans reconvened the meeting at 7:07PM. Sergeant Owens led a tour of the Ambulance meeting and training space, Police Department garage, and Ambulance Department Garage. Owens also provided a tour of the newest ambulance unit and explained the supplies and equipment in the rig.

With there being no other business, Rowcliffe moved to adjourn at 7:23PM. Gearhart seconded the motion. All ayes.

Ashley Jasper, City Administrator

Hannah Evans, Mayor