

Strawberry Point City Council  
Regular Meeting February 17, 2021

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers within Strawberry Point City Hall. Mayor Pro Tempore Hansel presided. Council members answering roll call were Rowcliffe, Hansel, Courtnage, Gould, Gearhart.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from February 3, 2021

January Treasurer's Report showing receipts and disbursements by fund as follows:

Fund	Expenses	Revenues
General	\$ 94,503.34	\$ 31,358.38
Munter Trust	\$ -	\$ -
Library Capital Improvement	\$ -	\$ -
Fire Department	\$ -	\$ 300.00
Swimming Pool	\$ -	\$ -
Tree Board	\$ -	\$ -
Ambulance	\$ -	\$ -
Civic Center	\$ -	\$ -
Police Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Fire Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ 88,537.78
Ambulance Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ 90,987.78
Street Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Industrial Park Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Pool Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Administrative Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Parks Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Road Use Tax	\$ 7,821.46	\$ 36,299.83
I-Jobs	\$ -	\$ -
Employee Benefits	\$ 12,605.82	\$ 73.67
Emergency Fund	\$ 9,242.92	\$ 11.95
Local Option Sales Tax	\$ 178,975.56	\$ 9,887.54-
Tax Increment Financing	\$ -	\$ 727.80
FEMA	\$ -	\$ -
Debt Service	\$ 250.00	\$ 42,064.68
CDBG Rehab Housing Project	\$ -	\$ -
Water	\$ 15,876.20	\$ 12,262.04
Water Deposits	\$ 181.68	\$ 100.00
Water Capital Project	\$ -	\$ -
Sewer	\$ 12,757.73	\$ 30,057.43

Sewer Sinking	\$	-	\$	-
Sewer Capital Project	\$	-	\$	-
Electric	\$	78,402.17	\$	86,125.45
Electric Generator Sinking	\$	-	\$	-
Electric Sinking	\$	-	\$	-
Electric Meter	\$	199.32	\$	300.00
Electric Capital Projects	\$	-	\$	-
Electric Required Improvements	\$	-	\$	-

Claims

Liquor License Renewal – Rod & Cal’s

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Rowcliffe moved to approve the third reading of Ordinance #21-01 Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Strawberry Point, Iowa, Articles 68.02 and 68.02A to Change the Water Service Rates and Base Water Rate for All Water Customers. Gearhart seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Courtnage, Gould, Gearhart, Hansel. Nays: None. Motion passes. Gould moved to approve and adopt Ordinance #21-01 Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Strawberry Point, Iowa, Articles 68.02 and 68.02A to Change the Water Service Rates and Base Water Rate for All Water Customers. Gearhart seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Hansel, Courtnage, Gould, Gearhart. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Gearhart moved to approve the third reading of Ordinance #21-02 Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Strawberry Point, Iowa, Articles 53.02 and 53.02A to Change the Sewer Rental Rate and the Base Sewer Rental Rate for All Sewer Customers. Rowcliffe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Hansel, Gould, Gearhart. Nays: Courtnage. Motion passes. Gould moved to approve the third reading of Ordinance #21-02 Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Strawberry Point, Iowa, Articles 53.02 and 53.02A to Change the Sewer Rental Rate and the Base Sewer Rental Rate for All Sewer Customers. Rowcliffe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Hansel, Gould, Gearhart. Nays: Courtnage. Motion passes.

Rowcliffe moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance #21-03 Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Strawberry Point, Iowa, Article 24 to Add Section 24.06 Automatic Traffic Enforcement. Gould seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tempore Hansel opened the floor for discussion, starting with Police Chief Evans’ explanation of the ordinance. Evans explained the team effort to produce this proposal, with the ordinance being formal action of several City Council discussions throughout budget work sessions and the previous City Council meeting. Evans also explained that the system would not cite vehicles at one mile per hour over the speed limit although all possible violations are included in the ordinance; per the City Council’s discussions, the threshold would be set at least 10 miles per hour over the speed limit. Council members Rowcliffe, Hansel, Gould, and Courtnage spoke in favor of the safety benefits of the system as they are proven to slow traffic down. Council member Gearhart issued a public apology for misleading the public in a private message, and expressed concerns of the system including the instability of revenue and a desire to slow traffic down with an alternative solution. Gearhart requested to address the City’s budget shortfall by reducing spending, rather than through additional citations, and thought the decision should be made by a vote of the citizens rather than of the City Council. Several residents addressed the need to slow down traffic through town and expressed support of the system. There were also residents in attendance questioning the need for such system, with concerns about drivers bypassing town to avoid the potential of citation. Council members

shared comments from residents and business owners they have received, mostly in support of the system. With there being no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Hansel, Courtnage, Gould. Nays: Gearhart. Motion passes. With a desire to implement the system at the beginning of the summer travel season, Gould moved to waive the second and third readings of Ordinance #21-03 Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Strawberry Point, Iowa, Article 24 to Add Section 24.06 Automatic Traffic Enforcement. Courtnage seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Hansel, Courtnage, Gould. Nays: Gearhart. Motion passes. Hansel moved to approve and adopt Ordinance #21-03 Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Strawberry Point, Iowa, Article 24 to Add Section 24.06 Automatic Traffic Enforcement. Gould seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Hansel, Courtnage, Gould. Nays: Gearhart. Motion passes.

Courtnage moved to approve Resolution #21-04 Approving Service Agreement with Optotraffic, LLC. Gould seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Hansel, Courtnage, Gould. Nays: Gearhart. Motion passes.

## **INFORMATION**

Council reviewed the January 2021 Delinquent Listing. An updated was provided on the balance submitted to the state's Income Offset program, with further efforts being researched to collect on the remaining accounts.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Police Chief Evans explained that there are several chronic nuisance properties in town bringing problems our local law enforcement is not equipped to handle. This policy would encourage property owners to screen renters making the community safer. This works in other communities, and Evans foresees it working well here. Hansel moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance #21-04 Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Strawberry Point, Iowa, Article 45.01 to Add Section E – Chronic Nuisance Properties. Gearhart seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Hansel, Courtnage, Gould, Gearhart. Nays: None. Motion passes. Gearhart moved to waive the second and third readings of Ordinance #21-04 Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Strawberry Point, Iowa, Article 45.01 to Add Section E – Chronic Nuisance Properties. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Hansel, Courtnage, Gould, Gearhart. Nays: None. Motion passes. Gould moved to approve and adopt Ordinance #21-04 Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Strawberry Point, Iowa, Article 45.01 to Add Section E – Chronic Nuisance Properties. Courtnage seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Hansel, Courtnage, Gould, Gearhart. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Mayor Pro Tempore Hansel opened the Public Hearing on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Property Tax Levy. With there being no comments, written or oral, received, Mayor Pro Tempore Hansel closed the Public Hearing. Gearhart moved to approve Resolution #21-05 Approving the Maximum Tax Dollars from Certain Levies for the City's Proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget. Rowcliffe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Hansel, Courtnage, Gould, Gearhart. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Gearhart moved to approve Resolution #21-06 Setting Time and Place for a Public Hearing for the Purpose of Soliciting Written and Oral Comments on the City's Proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Hansel, Courtnage, Gould, Gearhart. Nays: None. Motion passes. The Public Hearing will be held at the March 17, 2021 City Council meeting at 6PM.

Gould moved to approve Resolution #21-07 Approving Access Systems Lease. Gearhart seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Hansel, Courtnage, Gould, Gearhart. Nays: None. Motion passes.

The City Council discussed the hiring process for pool employees. Hansel moved to allow the Deputy City Clerk to oversee the application and interview process and provide a recommendation to the

City Council. Rowcliffe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Hansel, Courtnage, Gould, Gearhart. Nays: None. Motion passes.

The City Council reviewed a request from Regional Medical Center to use the hallway and the gym for a potential COVID vaccine clinic. There was discussion of using either the Ambulance garage or the Fire Station, with neither facility able to accommodate the short timeline expected. Hansel moved to authorize the use of the Civic Center gym and hallway for a Regional Medical Center COVID vaccine clinic. Gearhart seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Hansel, Courtnage, Gould, Gearhart. Nays: None. Motion passes.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

With there being no other business, Rowcliffe moved to adjourn at 7:22PM. Gearhart seconded the motion. All ayes.

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Ashley Jasper, City Administrator

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Megan Hansel, Mayor Pro Tempore