

Strawberry Point City Council
Regular Meeting August 18, 2021

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, August 18, 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, Gould, Courtnage, Gearhart, Rowcliffe.

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

PRESENTATIONS/GUESTS

Doug Schmidt, Board President of the Strawberry Point Chamber and Economic Development Club addressed the council regarding the financial condition of the Club. Schmidt reviewed several of the Economic Development Groups initiatives prior to its consolidation with the Chamber, including involvement with the Library, park equipment, business support, and more recently the Farmer’s Market, volunteer recruitment, and a Downtown Walkaround with Iowa Economic Development Authority. Schmidt also explained the Club’s plan to start a capital campaign allowing them to extend their goals into the future; at this time, they only have enough funding to operate through September. Schmidt asked the City Council for a pledge commitment to the campaign. This item will be added to the next agenda. Council had several questions pertaining to membership counts and fees, involvement in bringing businesses to town, and other opportunities for funding.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from August 4, 2021, City Council Meeting

Claims

July 2021 Treasurer’s Report showing receipts and disbursements by fund as follows:

Fund	Expenses	Revenues
General	\$ 70,062.84	\$ 30,903.67
Munter Trust	\$ -	\$ -
Library Capital Improvement	\$ -	\$ -
Fire Department	\$ -	\$ -
Swimming Pool	\$ -	\$ 1,354.35
Tree Board	\$ -	\$ -
Ambulance	\$ -	\$ -
Civic Center	\$ -	\$ -
Police Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Fire Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Ambulance Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Street Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Industrial Park Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Pool Equipment Reserve	\$ 664.00	\$ 1,050.00
Administrative Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Parks Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -
Road Use Tax	\$ 5,015.68	\$ 20,007.16
I-Jobs	\$ -	\$ -

Employee Benefits	\$ 5,525.12	\$ 958.40
Emergency Fund	\$ -	\$ 77.61
Local Option Sales Tax	\$ -	\$ 11,468.04
Tax Increment Financing	\$ -	\$ -
FEMA	\$ -	\$ -
Debt Service	\$ -	\$ 420.20
Civic Center Library Improvements	\$ 10,240.00	\$ -
CDBG Rehab Housing Project	\$ -	\$ -
Water	\$ 12,100.99	\$ 19,949.98
Water Deposits	\$ 387.26	\$ 400.00
Water Capital Project	\$ -	\$ -
Sewer	\$ 12,518.45	\$ 34,298.99
Sewer Sinking	\$ -	\$ -
Sewer Capital Project	\$ -	\$ -
Electric	\$ 73,801.21	\$ 102,366.73
Electric Generator Sinking	\$ -	\$ -
Electric Sinking	\$ -	\$ -
Electric Meter	\$ 1,576.97	\$ 1,350.00
Electric Capital Projects	\$ -	\$ -
Electric Required Improvements	\$ -	\$ -

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

It was reported that a lease was prepared for Berry Tender Child Care consideration, using the terms as proposed by the City Council. Berry Tender Child Care's Board of Directors approved the lease. City Administrator/Clerk Ashley Jasper advised Council that the City will need to borrow from a third party in order to utilize the Debt Service property tax levy for repayment of potential project debt. Gould moved to approve Resolution #21-30 Approving Civic Center Lease Agreement with Berry Tender Child Care. Courtnage seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Courtnage, Rowcliffe, Gould. Nays: Gearhart, Hansel. Motion passes.

Courtgage moved to approve Resolution #21-31 Approving Grant Writing Contract with Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission. Gould seconded the motion. The City plans to apply for a CDBG COVID grant to cover a significant portion of the HVAC project costs. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gearhart, Rowcliffe, Hansel, Gould, Courtnage. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Courtgage moved to approve Resolution #21-32 Approving Contract with Demmer Architecture. Gould seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rowcliffe, Hansel, Gould, Courtnage, Gearhart. Nays: None. Motion passes.

INFORMATION

Council reviewed the July 2021 Delinquent Account List.

NEW BUSINESS

Gearhart moved to approve the Application and Agreement to Perform Work Within State Highway Right-of-Way for Snowmobile Trails. Hansel seconded the motion. Council expressed several concerns from previous seasons regarding placing of signs, compliance with routes, and property damage. Council proposed tabling the item until a representative can be present to address the Council's concerns. Gearhart withdrew his motion and the item was tabled. Item will be added to the next agenda.

Council discussed replacing the Police Department Caprice with a Tahoe and using an interest free loan from the Electric fund to finance the purchase. There was discussion regarding the need for two four-wheel drive vehicles, cost of repairs for the Caprice to bring it back to squad car standards, the benefit of placing vehicles on a capital rotation plan which largely keep the vehicle under warranty as well as used vehicle rotations. There were comments for and against each point. Rowcliffe moved to approve Resolution #21-33 Declaring Surplus and Authorizing Internal Advance of Funds. Gould seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gould, Rowcliffe. Nays: Courtnage, Gearhart, Hansel. Motion failed.

Public Works Water/Wastewater Operator Garrett Keppler was commended for his dedication and successful achievement of the Water Distribution – I certification. Per the City's Personnel Policy, Keppler is eligible for a wage adjustment dated as of the achievement. Hansel moved to approve Resolution #21-33 Retroactively Setting the Salary for Employee Earning Iowa DNR Certification. Courtnage seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Courtnage, Gearhart, Rowcliffe, Hansel, Gould. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Gearhart moved to approve Resolution #21-34 to Fix a Date for a Public Hearing on Proposed Sale/Conveyance of Easement of Real Estate. Hansel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gearhart, Rowcliffe, Hansel, Gould, Courtnage. Nays: None. Motion passes.

OTHER BUSINESS

City Administrator/Clerk Ashley Jasper reported on the 2020 Census count which officially decreases the City's population by 124 residents down to 1,155. This will negatively impact the City's Road Use Tax and Local Option Sales Tax receipts. Mayor Evans advised all citizens, including the City Council Members, will be asked to complete a Service Request Form instead of submitting verbal requests. This process will allow for proper routing and tracking of requests. Gearhart sought additional information on the Ambulance Department's softball fundraiser. Gould reminded those in attendance of the potluck that Smith Insurance was hosting with the Library that evening. Hansel requested more activities be shared on the City's main Facebook page for more visibility of posts on each Department's page. Courtnage requested consideration be given to transforming the tennis courts into pickle ball courts during discussion of the FY2023 budget.

With there being no other business, Gould moved to adjourn at 7:06PM. Gearhart seconded the motion. All ayes.

Ashley Jasper, City Administrator

Hannah Evans, Mayor