

Strawberry Point City Council
Regular Meeting March 5, 2008

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Fox presided and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members answering roll call were Al Friederich, Jan Parkin, Jackie Opperman, Norm Rizer, and Troy Stover.

Al Friederich moved to accept the consent agenda with the changes to the February 20th minutes to include: Other Business: The Community is really working together to make this (correction: Strawberry Days) a fun filled weekend. Jan Parkin seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion carries.

Mayor Fox opened Public Hearing for the Budget at 6:15pm. Mayor Fox read Resolution No. 08-05 A Resolution Adopting the Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2009. Mayor Fox asked if there were any verbal or written objections. The City Clerk had received one strong objection to the budget from a citizen. Opperman moved to approve Resolution No. 08-05 to adopt the budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2008. Stover seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Opperman, Parkin, Stover, Friederich and Rizer. Nays: None. Resolution No. 08-05 passes.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business brought before the City Council.

INFORMATION

Council received Electric Study Committee Meeting minutes held on February 21st, information from a citizen wanting Union Street extended so he can reach his property, and information pertaining to the City Superintendent attending an awards banquet to accept an award for the lagoon project on April 10th.

NEW BUSINESS

Council was asked to act as a pass through for an Economic Development Set Aside Program, which is a grant program to assist DRI (Rich Schmelzer) to make expansions to his existing business. There will be a public hearing so the public can voice their comments regarding the City being a pass through for the Economic Development Set Aside Opperman moved to set the public hearing date for the review application for DRI for March 19th at 6:30p.m. Stover seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

Darla Kelchen from the Clayton County Development Group was present to extend a thank you to the City for partnering with them to make all of us a success. She also presented information on the Enterprise Zone and included a map of new areas. She also provided a brochure discussing the Clayton County Development Group's new marketing campaign.

The Fire Chief requested council approval for the recommendation of Johnny Walz for a new member to the fire department. Parkin moved to approve Johnny Walz to the fire department. Rizer seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

The property at 228 East Mission had received a First Time Homebuyer Grant through the City and this property is for sale. The City has first option to purchase this property or approve a Right of Refusal. Opperman moved to approve the Right of Refusal, which says the City does not want the property. Friederich seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes. Council also reviewed the Release of Real Estate Mortgage for 228 E. Mission. Rizer moved to approve the Release of Real Estate Mortgage. Opperman seconded the motion. All

voted in favor and motion passes. The new buyers will assume the remainder of this grant period at the time of closing.

Adam Fette, Electric worker for the City was present to discuss the power outage that occurred on February 22. The first failure was a switch on a feeder line that goes to the old light plant. This was a fault and is a common occurrence. The other problem occurred when breakers blew at the new light plant, which should not have happened. The City held a meeting with Alliant discussing this. Due to many turnovers in the electric department, breakers are not being reset as upgrades are happening, which caused the entire town to be out of power. There will be some testing and upgrades to some of these items. Alliant will be giving the City an estimate by March 11th to get this done. With the upgrade, if a switch on a feeder line blows, the entire town will not be out of power.

Prices for pool passes were reviewed with comparisons from other similar cities. The City Superintendent commented that chemicals for the pool will be going up this summer. This will be reviewed at the next meeting once some cost analysis can be completed. We have had 8 applications submitted so far for pool positions. Interviews will be held in the near future to hire summer help for the pool.

Council reviewed Ordinance No. 08-03 An Ordinance Amending the City Code of Strawberry Point, Iowa, Article 84.02, 84.03 and 84.04 to Raise Electric Rates. This rate increase is due to our costs increasing from our wholesaler, RPGI. This ordinance will cause rates to increase \$.006 per kw, which will affect most electric bills minimally. After much discussion, Opperman moved to approve Ordinance No. 08-03. Stover seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Stover, Parkin, Rizer, Opperman and Friederich. Nays: None. First reading of Ordinance No. 08-03 passes.

Council received a request to write-off a utility account due to bankruptcy. Rizer moved to approve this write-off for \$242.90 Friederich seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

Council received a liquor license renewal for Nadings. The Police Chief and Fire Chief have completed the necessary inspections and everything was found to be satisfactory. Rizer moved to approve the liquor license renewal for Nadings. Parkin seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

Council received a liquor license renewal for the Franklin Hotel. The Police Chief and Fire Chief have completed the necessary inspections and everything was found to be satisfactory. Opperman moved to approve the liquor license for the Franklin Hotel. Friederich seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

The date was discussed to hold the Spring Cleanup. It was decided that this date should follow the annual garage sale day, which is May 3rd. Stover moved to hold the annual spring cleanup on May 10th. Rizer seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

Dates for open burning were discussed, with options to be discussed in the future to eliminate open burning. Open burning will be allowed this spring, but another option will be in place prior to the fall open burning. Parkin moved to approve April 18th to May 10th for open burning unless burn ban is set by county. Friederich seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

Council needed to set a public hearing date on the Electric Revenue Refunding Loan Agreement in a principal amount not to exceed \$950,000, which is included in Resolution No. 08-08. Parkin moved to approve Resolution No. 08-08 setting the public hearing for March 19th at 6:00pm. Opperman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Friederich,

Opperman, Stover, Parkin and Rizer. Nays: None. Resolution No. 08-08 setting the public hearing date was passed.

Council reviewed Resolution No. 08-07 A Resolution Authorizing a Loan Agreement and General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$650,000 and providing for the levy of taxes to pay the same. Friederich moved to adopt Resolution No. 08-07. Rizer seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rizer, Opperman, Friederich, Stover and Parkin. Nays: None. Resolution No. 08-07 passes.

OTHER BUSINESS

A Business owner presented information for guidelines on outdoor burning pertaining to outdoor furnaces. Information will be reviewed and an ordinance will be adopted in the future pertaining to these, which may include requiring a building permit.

With no further business, Opperman moved to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Parkin seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

Deanna Dement, City Clerk

Dale Fox, Mayor