

Strawberry Point City Council
Regular Meeting July 11, 2007

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, July 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Schmidt presided and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members answering roll call were Dean Courtnage, David Gould, Norm Rizer and Dale Fox, and Bill Green.

The minutes from June 20th and claims were reviewed. David Gould moved to accept the consent agenda with changes to the minutes from June 20th and to approve the claims, plus the additional claims to Aquila. Dale Fox seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion was carried. The amendments to the June 20th minutes under Old Business include: He has voiced his objection during the project, but the council as a body has continued to approve changes. Amendments to the June 20th minutes under New Business include: Gould moved to allow the Headstart kids to go to the pool from 12:00-1:00pm on Tuesday and Thursdays, same as the Daycare kids. Fox seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion was passed.

OLD BUSINESS

The council reviewed the Final Pay Request to Division I for Blount Excavating in the amount of \$12,685.30. Rizer moved to approve the final pay request of \$12,685.30 to Blount Excavating. Fox seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Fox, Rizer and Green. Nays: Gould and Courtnage. Motion passes.

The council then reviewed the Notice of Final Inspection and Acceptance for the Division I – Blount Excavating portion of the new wastewater treatment plant. Green moved to accept the final inspection and acceptance for Division I. Fox seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Fox, Rizer and Green. Nays: Gould and Courtnage. Motion passes.

The council received a water supply and sewer service agreement for Pheasant Ridge Subdivision. Randy Willie, the person behind the subdivision was present. He informed the council that this agreement basically says that the City will provide service of water and sewer to the subdivision. Courtnage moved to enter into the agreement with Pheasant Ridge Subdivision for water service. Gould seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion was passed. Gould moved to enter into the agreement with Pheasant Ridge Subdivision for sewer. Fox seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion was passed.

An update on the Highway 3/13 Street Project was given and the project was discussed. Stage 4 of the construction has been paved and the curb and gutter will be getting done later in the week. Next week driveways and sidewalks will be reconstructed. Ryan Wicks, from Tekippe Engineering was present to inform the council that there had been some discussion regarding the curb and gutter from Lincoln north. There will be no change to the original plans of spot removal and replacement of curb and gutter north of Lincoln. Gould made a motion that we stay with the original plans regarding curb and gutter. Fox seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion was passed.

The council had asked that the library and ambulance personnel be removed from Resolution No. 07-16. The council received an updated version of Resolution No. 07-16, A Resolution Setting the Wages and Salaries for Appointed Officers and Employees of the City of Strawberry Point. Norm Rizer moved to approve Resolution No.

07-16. Bill Green seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Fox, Green, and Rizer. Nays: Courtnage and Gould. Resolution No. 07-16 passes.

An update on property at 310 Commercial was given. A search warrant has been obtained and an inspection by a structural engineer will be done on Friday, July 13. Also, present at the inspection will be the fire chief, police chief, and city attorney. Once the engineer has given the recommendation, plans will continue with condemnation proceedings.

An update was given on the bus barn property. The property will be getting surveyed so the City can have a legal description of the property. The process of selling this piece of land was discussed. It does not have to be done by sealed bids, but the actual process the council will use has not been determined. The council would like to know for certain that the gasoline tanks have been removed. They are also wondering how much the property is worth. These items will be addressed and discussed at a later meeting.

Mark Zwanziger, clerk of Cass Cemetery was present to inform the council of their plans for sidewalks at the Cemetery. They are planning on removing the unhealthy tree and stump and moving the sidewalk back as council had directed. (Correction: They are planning on moving the sidewalk back as council directed. They also requested that the City remove the tree and stump by western edge of the property). The entrance to the Cemetery will be changed when East Mission road gets redone.

The sidewalk grade on Elkader Street was discussed. Property owners had received their letters stating that sidewalks need to be replaced by October 2007. The property owners are questioning the grade to replace sidewalks with the chance that Highway 13 will be reconstructed in the future. Council recommended that the property owners consult their contractors regarding establishing an appropriate grade on their sidewalks.

Council discussed the DNR penalty stemming from a sewer penalty in 2003. Their options are to either pay a \$3,000 penalty or pay a \$2,500 penalty plus do a SEP project. The City Clerk recommended that they pay the \$3,000 penalty and be done with this issue. To do so will entail a budget amendment, since the \$3,000 was not previously budgeted for in 2007-2008 fiscal year. Courtnage moved to pay the \$3,000, with the understanding that a budget amendment and public hearing will be needed. Green seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion was passed.

INFORMATION

The council likes to keep informed of all issues pertaining to the city. Because of this they received the minutes, fiscal year-end totals and financial information from the library. They also received Weekly Work in Progress Reports from Tschiggfrie Excavating. The police department also supplied a monthly report to the council. The council also received information regarding the updates to the City website. The agenda, minutes, City Code, Zoning Code and other important information is or soon will be available on the website.

NEW BUSINESS

The council received information about the Celebration Iowa Singers and Jazz Band Concert. It will be held on July 26th at 7:00 p.m. on the baseball field. Fox moved to approve the Celebration Iowa Singer and Jazz Band Concert to hold their annual event on the baseball field on July 26th; at 7:00 p.m. Gould seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion was passed.

Council needed to make a decision regarding the legal fees incurred from Dorsey & Whitney. The City could either pay for it or add it to our permanent financing when the road construction is finished. This decision was postponed until the next meeting since it is being researched whether or not our insurance company has a policy regarding these types of expenses.

The City Clerk brought a utility account to the council to be written off. Council wanted to know whether the meter deposit had been applied to the account. This will be reviewed and addressed at a later meeting.

The council was given an election notice ad that will be placed in the newspaper. The council informed the City Clerk that it should be placed in the paper the first week in August.

The council received a petition, contract and waiver for properties at 504 and 516 Commercial. These petitions ultimately are change orders to the road construction original plans. These contracts, signed by the property owners makes them ultimately responsible for the changes. Fox moved to approve the petition, contract and waiver for the two properties. Green seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion was passed.

The ecumenical bible school was requesting permission to close Park Avenue from Inger Park to Spring Street from 9:00am-3:00pm on July 16th-20th. Fox moved to approve closing the street. Gould seconded the motion. There was additional discussion. Following the discussion, Fox and Gould both withdrew their motions. Fox recommended that the ecumenical bible school move to another church this year due to the additional traffic on Park Avenue.

No action was taken or needed regarding the septic system disposal requesting permission to dump septic system sewage. The City Superintendent decided that we did not want to mess with our sewer, since our readings have been very good and that we should not get involved with this type of dumping.

The pool employees requested that they hold another midnight swim on either July 27th or July 28th. Rizer moved to approve the midnight swim on July 27th or July 28th. Fox seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion was passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

The City Clerk asked the council when a good night would be to hold a Capital Plan Workshop. After some discussion, it was decided to hold it prior to the next council meeting on July 18th. The workshop will start at 6:00 p.m. The City Clerk also informed the council of Randy McCurdy from Northern Natural Gas would be doing a short presentation at City Hall on July 12th at 10:00 a.m. She asked who would be present.

The mileage reimbursement resolution was again talked about. It was decided that it should be placed on the next agenda and that the wording will be addressed then. The resolution is to include a clause that claims that the City is not responsible for accident damage to personal vehicles.

It was also discussed about the budget and how department heads are ultimately responsible for maintaining their budget. Departments must, prior to large expenditures, come before council for approval. Department head must also code all their bills and track their budgeted amounts compared to actual amounts.

Courtnage moved to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Gould seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion was carried.

Deanna Dement, City Clerk

Douglas Schmidt, Mayor