

Strawberry Point City Council
Regular Meeting September 5, 2007

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 5, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Schmidt presided and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members answering roll call were Dale Fox, David Gould, Bill Green, Dean Courtnage and Norm Rizer.

Norm Rizer moved to accept the consent agenda with changes to the minutes on August 15th and August 22nd. Courtnage seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

The police department and how the City wants to handle the vacancy was discussed. Councilman Courtnage commented that another full-time police officer would be in the best interest of the community. Clayton County Sheriff Bob Hammann was present. He commented that it is best for communities to have 2 full-time police officers, since it provides better police protection. When County provides police protection it takes additional time to respond to calls. County has 12 deputies, 4 investigators, 1 chief deputy and 1 TI deputy. There are usually three cars out on weekdays, and 5 cars on weekends. While just patrolling they cover the entire county, which is a large county. Sheriff commented that the County would do whatever they need to help Strawberry Point. Councilman Green commented that he feels better having own police protection. If County officers are on other calls, response time may be affected. At this time there are no formal contracts for County police protection in Clayton County. Courtnage moved that we advertise for a full-time police officer, with the council and the Police Chief involved in the process. Fox seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion was passed.

Property at 310 Commercial was again discussed. Council was presented with an agreement concerning the property. There are some dates that need to be changed on the agreement before council approves it. We will review the contract and take bids on this property at the first October meeting.

The City has received the plat of survey with legal description for the bus barn property. A variety of opinions were discussed regarding this property. One option was to change the rental agreement that would make the lessee partially responsible for any repairs to the property. One comment was that we could sell some of the vacant lots owned by the City at the top of the hill located at the Civic Center. Fox moved to not sell the bus barn property to continue to use it as it is and review the contract with the renters. Rizer seconded the motion. A vote was taken. Ayes: Rizer, Fox and Gould. Nays: Green and Courtnage. Motion passes.

Resolution No. 07-19 A resolution to encourage voters to vote to eliminate the extended area service charge on Iowa Telecom Phone bills was presented to the council. This would make calling Edgewood, Arlington and Volga long distance. The City clerk will check to see if there is a county election this year, otherwise it will have to wait to be placed on the voting ballot.

INFORMATION

Council received ambulance board meeting minutes from July 17th and August 14th. Also received were minutes from the Board of Adjustment meeting from August 1st. Tschiggfrie Excavating also provided a weekly work in progress report.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Works employee Adam Fette received his Treatment Grade 2 certification. He will try for his Distribution 2 certification yet this year. Councilman Gould moved to retroactively give him a \$1.50 an hour pay increase and another \$.50 an hour when receiving his Distribution 2 certification. Fox seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion was passed. Everyone in attendance gave Adam a round of applause in appreciation. By paying Adam this increase for becoming certified it will actually save the City \$350.00 a month when compared to what we are paying the City of Manchester in consulting fees per month. Once he receives his Distribution 2 certification the City will no longer have to contract with the City of Manchester.

Citizen's State Bank is requesting permission to relocate their communication dish on top of the water tower. Councilman Rizer provided some additional information about this. We need to make sure it does not interfere with the tower with Midwest Wireless. We do need to have a lease and a monthly rent established. Citizen's State Bank will get us their current contract and see if it will work. Green moved to go ahead and pursue negotiations to put their communication dish on the water tower and that the City would charge no more than \$50 per month. Fox seconded the motion. A vote was taken. Ayes: Gould, Courtnage, Green and Fox. Rizer abstained. Motion passed.

Fire Chief Robinson requested permission to purchase new pagers for a cost of \$700.00 for the fire department. Fox moved to approve new pagers for the fire Department. Green seconded the motion. A vote was taken. Ayes: Rizer, Gould, Green and Fox. Courtnage abstained. Motion passed.

The council reviewed an agreement between Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation and the City of Strawberry Point for 2008 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Gould moved to sign this agreement. Rizer seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion was passed.

An updated Plan-It License agreement and yearly renewal fee was presented to the council. Fox moved to pay the renewal fee of \$450.00 and seconded by Green. All voted in favor and motion was passed.

The Tree Board is requesting permission to replace mulch and add new plants at the Strawberry Point Arboretum sign. Rizer moved to approve the tree board to replace the mulch and add new plants at the arboretum sign. Courtnage seconded the motion. All vote in favor and motion was passed.

The City Clerk is requesting permission to use Ament Inc. to help prepare the financial plan for the Capital Plan. This will show if we can fund projects on our capital plan. Fox moved to grant permission to hire Ament, Inc. Green seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion was passed.

A discussion was held pertaining to seasonal meters. These are meters that are on outside water faucets that do not get billed sewer charges. These will not be eliminated, but some more research needs to be done on these. We will need to adopt an ordinance concerning seasonal meters.

Resolution No. 07-20 Petty Cash Policy was presented to the council for approval. The council would like it reviewed by the City attorney and placed on the agenda at the next meeting for council approval.

An estimate for a new snowplow truck in the amount of \$43,137.00 was presented for council approval. There is money budgeted for this expenditure in this fiscal year. The City will keep the old plow truck to be used for brush hauling. The new truck will be a white truck. Fox moved to approve the price of \$43,137 for the new snowplow truck and authorize the City Superintendent to order it. Gould seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion was passed.

The ambulance department was requesting permission to begin the ordering process for a new ambulance. The council would like to wait to address this until Ament Inc completes the financial report concerning the capital plan. This will allow us to actually see if we can fund a new ambulance. We need to schedule a meeting time with the Ambulance board so questions can be answered. It would also be helpful to have Lifeline present to answer the question regarding why a new chassis is not adequate. There is more information that needs to be received from the Ambulance Board before a decision can be made. A workshop will be scheduled with the ambulance board.

OTHER BUSINESS

The open house for the lagoon was discussed. Saturdays in October were discussed for holding the open house. We will invite politicians, the State, including the Governor and local media and people from the DNR. We could include statistics in our flyer. Horse manure was also discussed. If there is horse manure on the area between the sidewalk and the curb it must be cleaned up.

Gould moved to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. Courtnage seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion was passed.

Deanna Dement, City Clerk

Douglas Schmidt, Mayor