

Strawberry Point City Council
Regular Meeting November 7, 2007

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

Mayor Schmidt opened the Public Hearing for the Housing Rehab at 7:03 P.M. Carolyn Corbin was present from Upper Explorerland to handle the public hearing. Being there were no written or verbal objections the public hearing was closed at 7:05 P.M.

Council reviewed Resolution No. 07-23 A Resolution of Strawberry Point, Iowa authorizing the expenditure of funds to be applied to local match for a Housing Fund grant application. Rizer moved to approve Resolution No. 07-23. Courtnage seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Fox, Gould, Rizer, Green and Courtnage. Nays: None. Resolution No. 07-23 passes.

Council reviewed the Housing Needs Assessment and was asked if there were any changes or additions. Gould moved to accept the housing needs assessment. Green seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

The council reviewed a RFP received from Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission. Rizer moved to accept Upper Explorerland to do the housing grant administration. Gould seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion was passed.

Council then reviewed the minutes from October 17th and October 24th and the claims. Fox moved to accept the consent agenda. Green seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

OLD BUSINESS

Council received a letter from Tekippe Engineering regarding paying a portion of the change order from Tschiggfrie Excavating. Tekippe Engineering has said that they will pay \$1806.50. No action was taken on this item, but will be addressed once we receive the official change order.

The bus barn property was again discussed. The current renter will not sign the new lease agreement as is. Courtnage moved to put the bus barn up for sale. Green seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

The wording on Ordinance No. 07-13 regarding establishing water rates for separate meters was discussed. A concerned citizen was present to voice his opinion on the charging for separate meters. He feels it isn't fair to bill a minimum monthly fee for a meter that is only used a few months out of the year. The wording on the ordinance will be changed to reflect annual usage and fees and come back for council approval.

INFORMATION

Council received minutes from the Tree Board from August 22nd and September 10th.

NEW BUSINESS

Carolyn Corbin from Upper Explorerland was present to discuss Tax Increment Financing. There are some costs associated with setting up a TIF District. Upper Explorerland will write the urban renewal plan. The fee is \$35 per hour, but not to exceed \$500.00. The plan would need to be reviewed by our bonding attorney at a cost near

\$2500.00. There may be additional fees if the plan would need to be amended. To get a TIF District set up will take approximately 60 days from start to finish, possibly longer with discussion time. The City will consult Dorsey & Whitney about how much to TIF. Planning and Zoning will be involved in the process, as well as, the Mayor, City clerk and a local developer.

Randy Willie was present to discuss his plans for the Pheasant Ridge Subdivision. There are 29 lots to be developed. He would like to develop 6 lots in the beginning. It would be beneficial to have this subdivision in a TIF District. He provided council with a map of his subdivision and what would be needed for the 6 lots. Once the first 6 lots are sold then he will continue to sell the remaining lots.

Mayor Schmidt administered the oath of office to the new police officer Duane Borrett. Following this council reviewed a contract agreement that would be between the City of Strawberry Point and Duane Borrett. Duane has to attend the police academy at the expense of the City and the agreement specifies that if he would leave employment before 4 years is up, he would have to pay back a pro-rated amount of the total expenses. This will be reviewed by the City Attorney and brought back for council approval at the next meeting.

There was much discussion regarding board members that were never officially re-appointed by the City Council. There were three library board members that were never re-appointed by the City Council, which were conveyed to them. Councilman Gould offered a public apology to the Library Board for the way their missed re-appointments were handled. There were several citizens and members of the boards that offered comments. Courtnage moved to appoint the three library board members, Nancy Keppler, Marge Huebner and Marcia Hanson to the library board retroactively. Gould seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion was carried.

Two Ambulance board members were never re-appointed by the City Council also. Fox moved to appoint Jackie Opperman and Dr. Thompson to the Ambulance Board retroactively. Rizer seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion carried.

Three tree board members were never re-appointed by the City Council. Fox moved to re-appointment members Aaron Opperman, Rick Mierson, and Theresa Breitbach retroactively and to re-appoint Val Paris, since her term was expiring to the tree board. Dean seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion carried.

Council reviewed Ordinance No. 07-14 An Ordinance Amending the City Code of Strawberry Point, Iowa, to Add Article 47.20 Allowing a Private Citizen to Set Live Traps Under Certain Conditions. A private citizen offered comments about this ordinance. No action was taken.

A property owner at 305 Prairie is requesting an adjustment to his electric bill, since it was very high. Green moved that we do not adjust this property owner's bill for electric. Gould seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion carries.

The council reviewed the Investment Policy for the City of Strawberry Point. The City Clerk will have the City Attorney review the policy. Green moved to send it to the City Attorney for review. Fox seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

The council reviewed the Electronic Media and Internet Use Policy. The City Clerk will have the City Attorney review the policy. Green moved to send Ordinance 07-21 Electronic Media and Internet Use Policy to the City Attorney. Courtnage seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

The Council was presented with three Ordinances that would disband some established boards. Council reviewed Ordinance No. 07-15 An Amendment to Title V, Chapter 1, and Article 60 of the Code of Strawberry Point, Iowa, Eliminating the Park Board. After much discussion, no action was taken.

Council reviewed Ordinance 07-16 An Amendment to Title V, Chapter 5, Article 64 of the Code of Strawberry Point, Iowa, Eliminating the Performing Arts Board. No action was taken.

Council reviewed Ordinance No. 07-17 An Amendment to Title V, Chapter 6, Article 65 of the Code of Strawberry Point, Iowa, Eliminating the Civic Center Board. No action was taken.

No boards will be disbanded. The City Clerk will work on compiling a list of the current members of each board and work on getting members for some of the boards.

Council read the first reading of Ordinance No. 07-18 An Amendment to Title I, Chapter 1, Article 2 of the Code of Strawberry Point, Iowa, Changing the Name of the Article and Specifying Certain Action Required of all City Boards. Mayor Schmidt read the first reading of Ordinance No. 07-18. Green moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 07-18. Gould seconded the motion. Motion was withdrawn, since the wording needs to be amended to the ordinance.

The council received a recommendation to approve Nic Stelken to the Fire Department. Fox moved to approve Nic Stelken to the fire department. Gould seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion was passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

The newly elected council members and mayor were recognized. Councilman Fox also recognized that the City Clerk and Deputy City Clerk attended the League of Cities fall conference.

A representative from the Cemetery was present to ask for consistency about trees coming down in the City that pose a nuisance.

Courtage moved to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. Gould seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

Deanna Dement, City Clerk

Douglas Schmidt, Mayor