

Strawberry Point City Council  
Regular Meeting November 19, 2007

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Monday, November 19, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. with a workshop with the Clayton County Development Group. At 7:00 p.m. the regular council meeting began with Mayor Pro Tem Bill Green presiding and leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members answering roll call were Dean Courtnage, Dale Fox, Norm Rizer (addition: David Gould) and Bill Green.

Fox moved to approve the consent agenda with the minutes from November 7<sup>th</sup> and the claims plus the added claim to the Chamber of Commerce for the Christmas promotion for \$35.00. Courtnage seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Vicki Bloxham was present from Upper Explorerland, who has assisted the City with writing the housing rehab grant application. Council was asked for suggestions and comments on the housing grant application. The application needs to be submitted by the end of November. Funding will be awarded sometime between March and May 2008.

Mayor Pro Tem Green asked Council to move to the health insurance benefits renewal part on the agenda. Gary Wendt from TrueNorth was present to review the renewal rates. Medical rates will be increasing 2.93%. Dental rates will be increasing 9.5%. No change in life insurance and disability insurance rates. The vision insurance will be increasing 4%. Overall our renewal increases are low and very competitive. Courtnage moved to accept the renewal rates for 2008. Gould seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

Mayor Pro Tem Green asked the Council to move to the City Farm under new business. Rod Hettinger, the current renter of the City Farm was present. He would like to add lime to the cropland to make the soil better. He would like to see a longer-term rental agreement with a reimbursement clause for the lime if the contract is broken before the end of the lease. The City will draw up a new lease, which will include reimbursement for the cost of the lime if the city breaks the lease before seven years is ended. There is also 12 acres in the Industrial park that we could rent out. The City will put out for bid to see what we can get. The new lease and the possibility of renting out the 12 acres will be placed on the next agenda.

Council reviewed the first reading of Ordinance No. 07-13 An Ordinance Adding to the City Code of Strawberry Point, Iowa, Article 68.02A to Establish Water Rates for Separate Meters Under Code Section 67.11. This ordinance will increase the cost of the seasonal meter usage charge to \$75.00 a year for all water used under 12,000 gallons. There will be an additional charge of \$2.45 per thousand gallons over 12,000 gallons. Gould moved to adopt the first reading of Ordinance 07-13. Green seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Fox, Courtnage, Gould, and Green. Nays: Rizer. First reading passes.

Council reviewed the first reading of Ordinance No. 07-14 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. Gould moved to adopt the first reading of Ordinance No. 07-14. Courtnage seconded the motion. A roll

call vote was taken. Ayes: Courtnage, Fox, Rizer, Green and Gould. Nays: None. First reading of Ordinance No. 07-14 passes.

The bus barn property was again discussed. At the last meeting it was approved to proceed with selling this property. The City attorney provided the council the different options that the City could take in selling this property. A citizen was present to discuss issues regarding the selling of this property. The property had been verbally promised to the Strawberry Leisure Homes in the past and this concerned citizen is not happy that the City is considering selling the property. The property is zoned R-6, which has restrictions. Zoning issues of this property will be reviewed and addressed at the next council meeting.

The council reviewed the police officer reimbursement contract again. The City Attorney has reviewed for legality and is fine with a couple of added words. Fox moved to enter into this police officer reimbursement contract with Duane Borrett. Gould seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

Council received a pay request no. 6544 in the amount of \$1,811.05 from Crawford Engineering. Fox moved to approve pay request 6544 for \$1,811.05 to Crawford Engineering. Courtnage seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

Council received pay request No. 2 from Tschiggfrie Excavating in the amount of \$41,550.02. Council would like to see some explanations on some of the items listed on the invoice and the reason behind the differences. This will be addressed again at the next council meeting. The City Clerk will contact Crawford Engineering to have Dan Crawford present to answer questions.

#### **INFORMATION**

Council received October month-end financial information. They also received a Chamber of Commerce newsletter. The Electric Study Committee also provided minutes from their November 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The City Council received re-appointments for approval to the Planning and Zoning Board of Dick Neis and Lowell Rodas. Rizer moved to approve the appointments of Dick Neis and Lowell Rodas to the Planning and Zoning Board. Gould seconded this appointment. All voted in favor and motion carries.

The City Council received re-appointments for approval to the Board of Adjustments of Dan Paris and Lloyd Schuchman. Fox moved to approve the re-appointment of Dan Paris and Lloyd Schuchman to the Board of Adjustments. Rizer seconded the motion of the re-appointments. All voted in favor and motion passes.

The City Attorney provided the council with many options to address the issue of horses in Strawberry Point. The issue of nuisance and animals at large were discussed. There was much discussion on this issue. Options that may be considered in the future include registering horses and limiting the number of horses allowed. No action was taken.

Council reviewed two options of the first reading of Ordinance No. 07-15 An Ordinance Amending the City Code of Strawberry Point, Iowa to change Section 67.10 Passed in November, 2007 to be Renumbered as Section 67.11 and Placing a Moratorium on the Allowance of Separate Water Meters for Water Not Discharged through the City Sewer System. Fox moved to approve the first reading of option two for Ordinance No.

07-15. Green seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Fox, Green, and Gould. Nays: Rizer and Courtnage. First reading passes. This Ordinance will allow all property owners with seasonal meters to keep them and if the property transfers owners, the meter will stay with the property.

Council reviewed a list of sidewalks that were to be replaced and have not been completed. They also reviewed an agreement about the assessments and how we can proceed with this including the interest rate that can be charged. The City Clerk will review the maximum interest that can be charged and how much interest the local banks would charge for such a project. This will be addressed at a later meeting. Reminder letters will be sent to those property owners not completing the sidewalk replacement.

The City council received some delinquent accounts that need to be written off since they are from deceased utility account holders. Fox moved to approve writing off the deceased account holder's delinquent accounts. Rizer seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

The City council received notification that the Upper Explorerland Regional Housing Authority board appointment does not have to be a council member. Gould moved to advertise for a board member to the Upper Explorerland Regional Housing Authority. Fox seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

The City Council received much information about outdoor wood burning stoves. A citizen addressed the council on this topic. She also provided much information and statistics about outdoor wood burning. The issue of allowing open burning has been previously addressed. Outdoor burning and outdoor wood burning stoves do appear to pose health risks. Some States are imposing restrictions on outdoor burning. Another citizen commented that the EPA is setting emission standards and that there are some States that have restrictions on outdoor wood burning stoves. Three grams of emissions is the limit that is trying to be enforced by the EPA. There will need to be some guidelines and regulations on the wood burning stoves and outdoor burning, including permits required when they are being installed. This will be addressed at a later meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The curb on Mechanic and East Mission needs repaired. This will be addressed next spring. The bill from Alliant Energy for the electric conversion was less than anticipated so Alliant will come back in and make some additional changes to the electric lines.

Gould moved to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. Courtnage seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

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Deanna Dement, City Clerk

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Douglas Schmidt, Mayor

