

Strawberry Point City Council
Regular Meeting December 5, 2007

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

Gould moved to approve the consent agenda with the changes to the minutes from November 19th and the claims plus the added claim to Rodas Chevrolet for \$43,137.00 for the new snow plow truck. Courtnage seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Council again discussed the bus barn, especially the zoning of this property. It is zoned as a R-6, which allows single-family dwelling, multiple family dwelling, storage garages and playgrounds. An interested party has offered to lease the entire bus barn from the City and would make the needed repairs to the roof and then sub-lease a portion to the current renters. Green moved that we continue on the path of selling the bus barn property with sealed bids with a minimum bid of \$10,000 with the understanding of the City trading property with Leisure Homes. Green withdrew the part about regarding the Leisure Homes. Dale Fox seconded the motion. A citizen addressed the council with concerns regarding the underground tanks. Everything has been taken care of concerning the underground tanks. All voted in favor and motion passes.

Council reviewed the second 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 to review. 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. There have been several comments on this rate increase. Many feel that the minimum rate is too high. A citizen addressed the council on these rates. With the purchase of the meter it will take a number of years to pay for itself, but it eventually will. Another citizen addressed the council regarding these meters and commented that the rate is way out of line. Green moved to adopt the second reading of Ordinance 07-13. Gould seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: None. Nays: Fox, Gould, Green Courtnage and Rizer. Second reading fails.

Council reviewed the second 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 second 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. Second reading of Ordinance No. 07-14 passes. Green moved to waive the third reading of Ordinance No. 07-14. Courtnage seconded this motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Courtnage, Gould, Rizer, Green and Fox. Nays: None. Ordinance No. 07-14 passes.

Council reviewed the second 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. Courtnage moved to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 07-15. Gould seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Courtnage, Gould, Green, Rizer and Fox. Nays: None. Second reading passes. Gould moved to waive the third reading of Ordinance No. 07-15. Green seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Courtnage, Gould, Fox, Rizer and Green. Nays: None. Ordinance No. 07-15 passes.

Council reviewed Resolution No. 07-22 Investment Policy for the City of Strawberry Point. Green moved to adopt Resolution No. 07-22. Gould seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Fox, Gould, Rizer, Green and Courtnage. Nays: None. Resolution No. 07-22 Investment Policy for the City of Strawberry Point passes.

Council reviewed Resolution No. 07-21 Electronic Media and Internet Use Policy. Courtnage moved to adopt Resolution No 07-21. Rizer seconded the motion. A roll call voted was taken. Ayes: Fox, Green, Gould, Rizer and Courtnage. Nays: None. Resolution No. 07-21 passes.

Council received a change order from Tschiggfrie Excavating from the work on Buffalo and Franklin Street construction. They also received Pay Request No. 2 in the amount of \$41,550.02. Council was upset that they did not receive a change order while the project was occurring. Rizer moved to approve Pay Request No. 2 in the amount of \$41,550.02. Courtnage seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

Council received Pay Request No. 3 (Final) from Tschiggfrie in the amount of \$12,530.77. Rizer moved to approve Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of \$12,530.77. Courtnage seconded the motion. All were opposed to paying this Pay Request. The City clerk will contact Crawford Engineering about coming to the next meeting to provide further explanations on the change order.

The current renter of the City Farm was present to discuss putting extra fertilizer on this property to increase the **futility** (correction: **fertility**) of the land. A soil sample was done and the soil shows that extra fertilizer is needed. This would cost \$50 to \$60 an acre. He would like to see this put in a contract that he would get reimbursed if the quality of the soil had actually improved if the contract was terminated. Further research will be done to see if this is normal practice.

INFORMATION

Council received Ambulance board minutes from September 11th meeting. They also received information that the Fire Department has written a grant for an off trail vehicle, with no matching funds associated with it. The council also received notification that the oath of office will be administered to the newly elected officials at the end of the December 19th meeting. They also received Library board minutes from the October 29th meeting and a Chamber of Commerce newsletter. The Chamber of Commerce newsletter is also available on the website.

NEW BUSINESS

The City Superintendent is requesting a new “V” plow to move snow. It would cost \$3500 with trade-in of the old one. The money budgeted for the new snowplow truck came in considerably under the budgeted amount so the money is in the budget for this new “V” plow. This “V” plow will save time when removing snow from the City streets. Rizer moved to approve purchasing the “V” plow in the amount of \$3500 with trade. Courtnage seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

Council received information on a contract with Citizen's State Bank to allow them to install an antenna on the water tower. Citizen's State Bank is offering \$50.00 a month for renting this space on the water tower. Citizen's State Bank would like council to approve the general information and the rate and then the City attorney could draw up this agreement. We also need to make sure that the insurance requirements are met. The City Attorney will draw up a contract between Citizen's State Bank and the City of Strawberry Point to include insurance requirements and the \$50.00 monthly rent.

Council received an In-Home Occupation permit for Northeast Iowa Pet Rescue, which has been approved by the zoning administrator. There have been no complaints concerning this in-home occupation. Excessively barking dogs get sent to Waverly. A member of Planning and Zoning brought it to the city council's attention that they should approve this prior to coming before the City Council. The City Clerk will contact the President of the Planning and Zoning Board to schedule a meeting to approve this and then it will come back before the City Council for approval.

Police Officer Duane Borrett has offered his resignation as police officer. Fox moved to accept his resignation. Green seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes. The City will advertise for a police officer in the Eastern Iowa Shopper, Press Journal and on some websites. Fox moved to advertise for a police officer with the closing date of Dec 28th. Courtnage seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion carries.

Chief Pope asked permission of the City Council to carry over 34.5 hours of vacation until 2008 or be paid for it since he will be unable to take vacation due to this resignation. Rizer moved to allow Chief Pope to carry over 34.5 hours of vacation to 2008. Green seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

OTHER BUSINESS

We received many complaints regarding the icy streets Council members would like to have complaints signed with a name. Sand should be put down at the intersections to make travel on City streets safe for travel. Semi drivers are to park on Milwaukee and then if there are cars parked there, the semi drivers cannot get out. We need to address this so it does not happen again. We may need to make this semi only parking. There was graffiti painted on the squad car and other vehicles in town over the weekend. The Police Department is investigating.

Gould moved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Green seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passes.

Deanna Dement, City Clerk

Douglas Schmidt, Mayor