

Strawberry Point City Council
Regular Meeting April 28, 2010
(originally scheduled for April 21, 2010)

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 28, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Fox presided and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members answering roll call were Jan Parkin, Jackie Opperman, Troy Stover and Jacci Meyers. Rich Newman was absent.

Parkin moved to approve the agenda. Meyers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Parkin, Opperman, Stover, and Meyers. Nays: None. Motion passes.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 4) Minutes from April 7th
- 5) Claims
- 6) Motion to approve liquor license for outdoor service for Chaser's Saloon

Stover moved to approve the consent agenda. Parkin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Parkin, Opperman, Meyers and Stover. Nays: None. Consent agenda passes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council again discussed Resolution No. 10-06 Early Retirement Policy and a cost savings comparison of all employee related costs. There is an application that a prospective retiree needs to be completed. Parkin moved that we change the wording on the application and that it includes single coverage insurance for the retiree. Stover seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Parkin, Stover, Meyers, and Opperman. Nays: None. Stover moved that we approve the resolution with the changes listed above. Parkin seconded the motion. Following some further discussion Stover withdrew his motion and so did Parkin. The spreadsheet showing the cost savings to the City will be published so people can see this information.

Council again discussed properties to be inspected. This will be addressed at a later date.

INFORMATION

The council received minutes from the Tree Board from March 8th, March month-end financial reports, information that the Hazard Mitigation Plan will be available for public input from May 1st – May 18th and minutes from Planning & Zoning from April 15th.

NEW BUSINESS

The council was addressed by concerned citizens on Westwood since they have been hearing that new neighbors might be bringing chickens into the City. There was a petition presented to the City Council with more than 40 signatures in objection to this. Some of the issues are noise, smell, confining them, and cleaning out the coop and disposing of the waste. The chicken feed will attract mice and rats, which can lead to other animals coming into town and will put our pets at risk. These are just some of the issues that allowing chickens into city limits will cause. Opperman moved that we work on an ordinance specifying what types of animals are not allowed in city limits. Parkin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Meyers, Stover, Opperman, and Parkin. Nays: None. Motion passes.

The owner of Pheasant Ridge Subdivision was present to ask for a variance for paved roads to be constructed after houses are built in his subdivision. The city code states that street, curb and gutter are to be put in before houses are constructed. The council's view is to follow the City Code, so the streets will need to be paved in the subdivision.

The council was presented with recommendations from the Planning & Zoning Commission. Along with this the fence issue on Oak Street was discussed. One fence was

installed and then the adjoining property owner wanted to build a fence. One property owner set the fence back from the property line and the other one set it on the line. For the property owner with the fence on the line to maintain his fence he would have to go on the other property owner's property. This poses some big problems in this neighborhood. There was miscommunication about what constitutes the height of a fence. The other issue was brought up regarding whether a building permit is required for constructing lattice on a yard. The issue for this fence was not taken to court since no letter was sent regarding the lattice. The council would like ordinances developed to address the changes recommended from Planning & Zoning. The picture should include a lot line picture from Assessor's office and a digital photo. Opperman moved that we develop ordinances from recommendations from April 15th Planning & Zoning meeting. Stover seconded the motion. Ayes: Stover, Opperman, Parkin and Meyers. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Trees at 511 Commercial were removed without Tree Board or City approval and the trees are guessed to have been on an alley. To know if these trees were on private property or city property it needs to be surveyed. Opperman moved that we survey the alley at the 5th block of Commercial Street from Campbell Drive to Lincoln Street. Parkin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Opperman, Parkin and Stover. Nays: Meyers. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the lease agreement for Berry Tender Childcare. The current rent amount is \$700 per month. The rent amount has not been increased since 2006. Stover moved that we accept the agreement and to increase the rent to \$800 a month. Meyers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Meyers, Stover and Parkin. Nays: None. Opperman abstained. Motion passes.

Forestville road will be tiled. The cost estimates were under \$2,000 so the City Superintendent approved this to go forward. The tiling will take place in the very near future.

The Chamber of Commerce requested permission to use the City Tax ID to apply for a gaming license for Strawberry Days. Opperman moved that we allow the Chamber of Commerce to use the City ID for gaming license. Parkin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Opperman, Parkin, Stover and Meyers. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed a Lease agreement between Verizon Wireless and the City of Strawberry Point for tower space on the water tower. Opperman moved that we approve the lease agreement. Meyers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Stover, Opperman, Parkin and Meyers. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed the Memorandum for tower space with Verizon Wireless which goes with the lease agreement. Stover moved that we approve the memorandum. Opperman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Opperman, Parkin, Meyers, and Stover. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council was presented with a Public Service Recognition Proclamation declaring May 3-9, 2010 as Public Service Recognition Week. Stover moved to approve the proclamation. Parkin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Parkin, Meyers, Stover, Opperman. Nays: None. Motion passes.

The council again needs to discuss the Civic Center building and what the future holds. Should the City keep putting money into the building or construct a new building sometime in the future. The City needs to develop an idea and then make the plans. A committee will work on this and report back to the council. The committee will consist of Jackie Opperman and Troy Stover.

Council reviewed the dates for offering swimming lessons, which will be the same as last year. Opperman moved to accept the swimming lesson dates. Meyers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Opperman, Parkin, Stover and Meyers. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council reviewed two bids for cleaning the carpets in City Hall. The two bids were from Master Clean for \$350 and Servicemaster for \$561.87. Opperman moved to ask for a Scotchgard addition to Master Clean bid and then allow the city clerk to make the decision to go with which every bid is lowest. Parkin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Meyers, Parkin, Stover and Opperman. Nays: None. Motion passes.

The Police Chief is requesting permission to write a grant for moving the dog kennel in front of the old light plant and adding a new 16x16 cement pad and removing the saddles. It is a 100% grant. Parkin moved that we approve the writing of this grant. Meyers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Parkin, Stover, Meyers and Opperman. Nays: None. Motion passes.

The City Clerk received her municipal city clerk certification, which takes 3 years to achieve or 2 years plus a Master's degree. In many cities a pay increase is given when this certification is awarded. This certification is equivalent to the public works employees earning water and sewer certifications, in which raises are given. The personnel committee will review this and have a pay increase for next meeting.

At this time the council discussed the Executive Session to Discuss Strategy with Council in matters Involving Litigation pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(c). Opperman moved that we enter into closed session per Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(c). Stover seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Parkin, Opperman, Meyers, and Stover. Nays: None. Motion passed. Council entered into closed session at 8:30 PM. Stover moved that we go out of closed session. Meyers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Opperman, Meyers, Stover and Parkin. Nays: None. Motion passes. Council entered back into open session at 8:44PM. Opperman moved that we approve the recommendation of Attorney Tim Luce. Meyers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Stover, Opperman, Meyers, and Parkin. Nays: None. Motion passes.

OTHER BUSINESS

A property owner wants to build a pond on his property and nothing prohibits him from doing this. The council may need to address this. There was a breaking and entering over the weekend. There will be a public meeting May 12 at the Civic Center from 5-7 PM to review the construction designs for Elkader Street. The leaf vacuum was used on leaves and it worked great.

With no further business, Opperman moved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Parkin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Deanna Dement, City Clerk

Dale Fox, Mayor