

Strawberry Point City Council  
Regular Meeting December 1, 2010

The Strawberry Point City Council met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, December 1, 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, Rich Newman, Jacci Meyers, Troy Stover, and Jackie Opperman.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

4) Minutes from November 17<sup>th</sup>

5) Claims

Meyers moved to approve the consent agenda with additional claims to Citizens State Bank for interest payments and Strawberry Development Fund. Stover seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Newman, Opperman, Parkin, Parkin and Stover. Nays: None. Consent agenda passes.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mr. Paul Anthes had submitted a bill he wanted the City to pay for partial repair of damages. The Council requested more information on laws pertaining to easements onto the property to fix the damage. The City Attorney was consulted and there is no such easement and the City has no obligation to reimburse this invoice. Mr. Paul Anthes would have to provide permission to the City to do the work that had been previously approved, which he has not given.

The progress on the Vision 2020 Plan was briefly discussed. At every meeting, council members will give an update on the goal they are specifically working on. The goal is to continue working on goals until all the goals have been met or the steps are in place to meet the goal.

**INFORMATION**

The City Council received a report from the Police Department from 9/1/10-11/20/10. They also shared information from the council visiting Mrs. Puffett's third grade class at Starmont and Tree Board minutes from October 11<sup>th</sup>. The third grade had a project to come up with ideas to improve Strawberry Point. The main focus was to increase the playground equipment and a new pool. The students drew pictures illustrating what they would like to see.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The City advertised for bids to remove trees at the Cemetery. The 1<sup>st</sup> bid was from S&S Tree Service for \$7,625.00. The second bid was from Fridley Painting and Tree Service for \$16,200.00. Opperman moved to approve the tree removal bid from S&S Tree Service for \$7,625.00. Newman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Opperman, Parkin, Stover, Meyers and Newman. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Citizens from Strawberry Point were present with a petition to reinstate Josh Johns to the Strawberry Point police department. One citizen representing the group addressed the council and spoke against the County patrolling our community and said they heard that they are not interested in patrolling our community. Other citizens also spoke on Josh John's behalf. The citizens would like to see Josh John's given a second chance since he was a very good officer and he is definitely an asset to this community. One citizen said that each of us have made mistakes and been given second chances and that he also deserves a second chance. Josh is an awesome police officer and he is an outstanding person since he was so honest about what

happened. Citizens questioned why the discussion with Josh was not done in closed session. Closed session is up to the employee being discussed and he chose not to enter into closed session. One council member stated he would not reinstate him. Action on this topic has been suspended, which means no action will be taken tonight or at any time in the future.

The council was presented with doing an advertisement for Christmas from the City with the Press Journal. Parkin moved that we do the Christmas advertisement in the Press Journal like in the past. Stover seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Parkin, Stover, Meyers, Newman and Opperman. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Norm Rizer was serving on the Upper Explorerland Regional Housing Authority board. His position expires December 31, 2010, which means there is an open position as of January 1, 2011. Jacci Meyers has said she would serve on this board. Stover moved to approve the appointment of Jacci Meyers to the Housing Authority Board. Opperman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Stover, Newman, Opperman and Parkin. Nays: None. Meyers abstained. Motion passes.

Vickie Schmidt was recommended to the Board of Adjustment as a new member. Opperman moved to approve Vickie Schmidt to the Board of Adjustment. Stover seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Meyers, Newman, Opperman, Parkin and Stover. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Construction of an ice skating rink was again discussed. It would take lime, plastic liner and water and would cost approximately \$3,720.00. In addition to the construction cost, there is high maintenance to this project. If it warms up and it melts we would have to add water to the rink. The outside guys would have to remove the snow from the rink and the driveway to the rink. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

City council reviewed health insurance premium renewal information. We took applications for some other companies for comparing rates, since Wellmark had a 21.65% increase in rates. The current single rate is \$335.19 and the renewal rate is \$407.77. Family current rate is 838.01 and the renewal rate is \$1019.41. Due to the change in the employee mix even with the higher premiums the total cost to the City would be less. This may change when hiring a new police officer. United Health care was higher and would not accept the retiree. River Valley would not cover Mayo and would need a referral to Iowa City. The rates will change during the year depending on the age of the employee. Parkin moved to approve Wellmark with the 21.65% increase. Newman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Newman, Parkin, Stover and Meyers. Nays: Opperman. Motion passes. Council also reviewed renewal rates with Metlife Dental. Parkin moved to stay with Metlife Dental. Stover seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Opperman, Parkin, Stover, Meyers and Newman. Nays: None. Motion passes.

Council was going to do the Vision 2020 workshop. Since the meeting had already ran 2 hours they decided not to do the workshop. At the next meeting they decided to do a separate agenda and invite the community to attend.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The alley behind South Commercial will be addressed at a later time depending on the outcome of the tree situation. A citizen would like to see more meetings concerning the construction and tree removal on Elkader Street. He also asked about the electric lines behind the sidewalk. He won't sign an easement since he does not want a power line on his roof. A citizen made his annual plea that Hill Street be seal coated next year.

With no further business, Opperman moved to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. Parkin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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Deanna Dement, City Clerk

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Dale Fox, Mayor